The Long Island FISHERMAN

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MAY 25 | Volume 13, Number 21 ★ 13th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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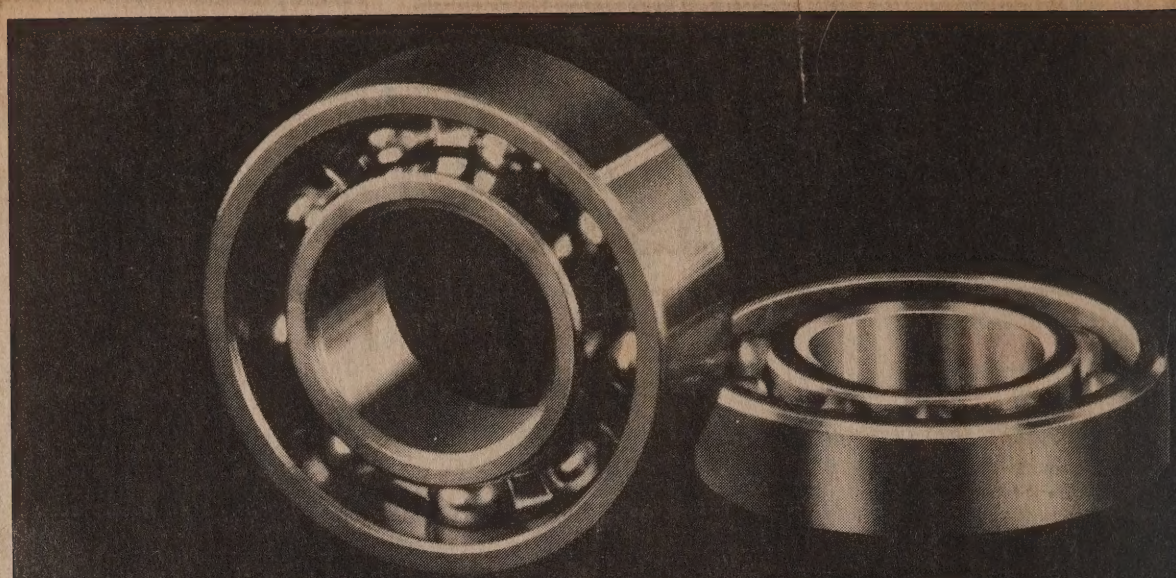
Pollack Arrive At Montauk

See page 30.



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But let's leave it at this: pi up one of our four sizes in the 2400 Series. Take it fishing. That's all it takes.

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Shakespeare 2400 Series That's how.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 21 MAY 25, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SEA BASS

About the Cover—

This angler enjoyed good success with big weakfish in Peconic Bay. The end of May is prime time for weaks in east-end waters. See *Fish Talk: "Yellowfin regalis"* on page 10. *Photo by Bill Muller.*

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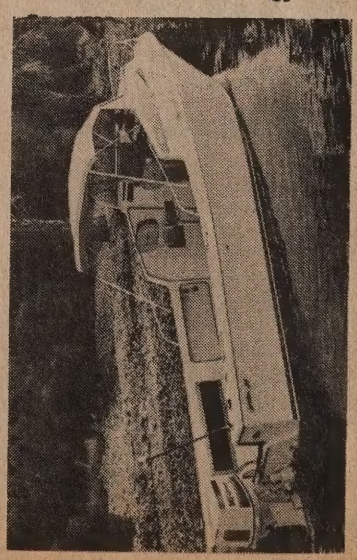

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From the Editor's Head

★★★

Rodney echoed across the water.

His fins hung low in disappointment, but before he would swim away he had to make one last point although it, too, would be in vain. "The humans know that we are here—all of us. They are searching for us and when they find us, they will take all of us. There will be no weakfish to carry on our proud tradition. There will be no porgy or sea bass or fluke either, for that matter. The humans. They will take each and every one of our people. We must cooperate and find new places for our people to winter." The old fish now felt sorrow for Rodney's embarrassment before his people and spoke softly. "Poor Rodney, you are a foolish fish. But I must agree with the people, for you cannot be trusted. Your strange ideas would surely destroy us and you would have us surrender everything to the porgy, sea bass, and fluke. Ah, but what would they give us? The humans are not the great threat that you think they are. They use management now; we will be able to reason with them. You'll see!" Rodney spoke out clearly. "Perhaps some of their leaders do mean well, but can they control all of their kind. What would happen if just one boat disobeys their masters? With their electronics and huge nets we would be gone before any of their masters could stop them. They'll cry all right, and they may even put the offender in jail, but who will bring our dead brothers and sisters back to life?"

The crowd was now getting mean. They wanted nothing of this talk. "Banish him! Kill him! Send him into the black winter night alone! See if the porgy will take him in!" The old fish swam forward. "No, we shall not kill him; but you are right, we must remove his poison from the school." Rodney made a last valiant effort. "I speak the truth, and I wonder why you find it so distasteful."

Rodney was banished from the kingdom of the weakfish. He tried many places, but no one would have him. So, he swam into the black night and spent the winter in solitude. One day while he lay quietly on the bottom, he could hear a great noise. Rodney knew from what he had learned in school that sound carries across many, many miles of water. It was muffled, so surely it must be coming from a great distance to the east. To the EAST! That was where his people were. Quickly, he swam in that direction, fighting the lethargy brought on by the cold water. He swam for hours and all the while he heard the rumbling sound. As he approached closer to the sound, he was filled with horror because he recognized that sound. It was the sound of a great ship engine and the rumble of a vast, weighted net bouncing along the bottom. The net had stirred up huge clouds of sediment which obscured the visibility, but he could still see what was happening. His people were screaming in agony as the great net gobbled them up. They could not swim away from it, for the winter lethargy prevented it. The television cameras he had learned about were fixed carefully to the net so that the men on the great ship could see in which direction the fish swam and, steering the ship in that direction, they gobbled up each and every fish. The ship swung in big circles, ambushing school after school of his people. Rodney carefully remained out of the sight of the probing camera eye. Most of his people were gone; only a few stragglers remained. He quickly retreated behind a rock and watched as the ship turned again for its final pass, which would see the last of the weakfish sucked into the gaping maw.

Rodney slumped behind the rock and cried. The great ship was off further to the east where the porgy and sea bass were. They would be next. Soon the Continental Shelf would echo with his loneliness. Suddenly out of the corner of his eye, he saw motion. He turned to see his friend Julie, swimming towards him with great tears falling from her large, expressive eyes. Their people were gone, but they had each other. It was a beginning.

The moral of the story is....?

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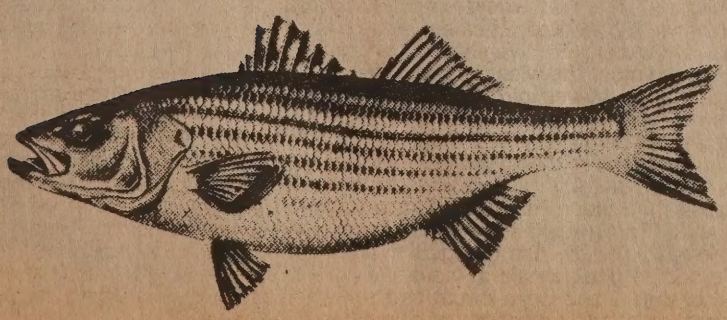

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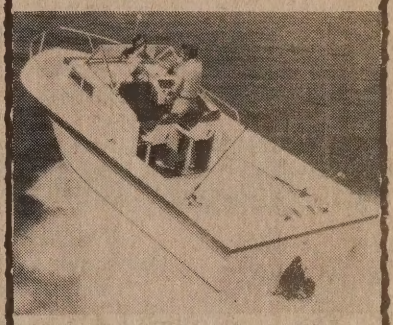

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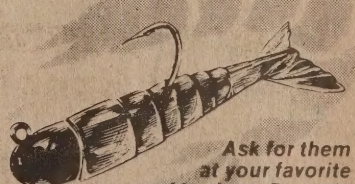

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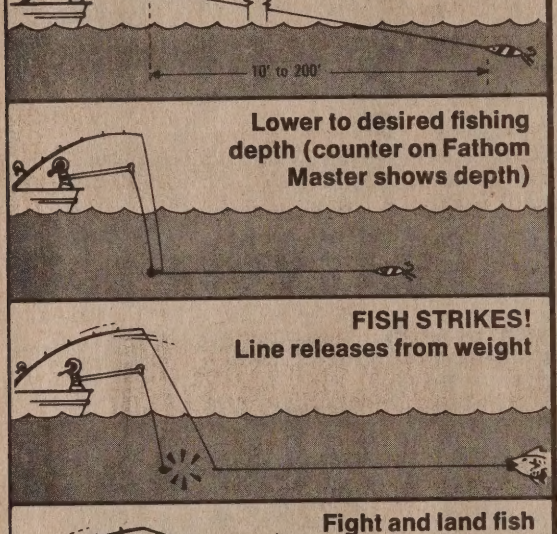
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MODEL 600
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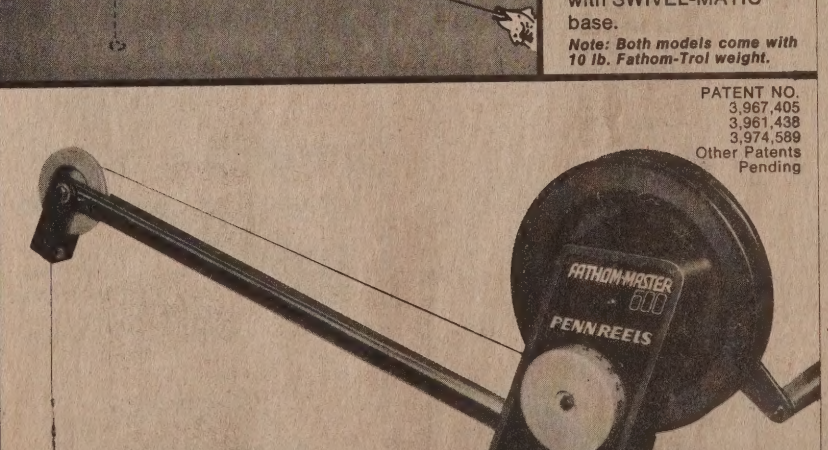

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CHUM LINES

MUST CURB BOAT THEFTS

I've been reading your paper since 1968, and have seen you fight for various things, such as the 200-Mile Limit. I've been on fishing boats since I was four-years-old; I'm twenty-seven now. My grandfather was a party boat captain in Gerretsen beach, and I own my own boat now for sport fishing and take it as a serious hobby. Now, like many other boat owners in the Sheepshead Bay-Gerretsen Beach area, we have a major problem: **robbery**. It's unbelievable how they are ripping off boats; even party boats are being robbed, such as the "Bounty" which ended up on the rocks at Rockaway jetty. My outdrive was ripped off last year and the same for about five other people **I know of** just in Gerretsen Creek. I hear Long Island has the same trouble also, and I'm sure other people feel like me about these crimes.

This is becoming a major problem for the boat fisherman and it's getting worse year after year. Your paper has many readers and strong backbone: what can we do to curb this? I know there are others who feel like me and also, like me, don't know what to do to start the ball rolling for protection that we pay for through taxes. Maybe your paper can help or advise us on this growing problem. **S. Festa, Brooklyn, N.Y.**

FLY FOR WEAKFISHING

I am a member of Salty Flyrodders of N.Y. We have had great success using a fly called the "Shelter Island Fly" to catch weakfish. It's very simple to make. It's a bucktail body and two small grizzly cheeks. You will note the barb has been pinched down. This increases hooking ability and makes it easy to remove if you hook yourself.

Have Mr. Fisahn contact one of our members who ties professionally. His name is: Bill Bradshaw, 43-69 165th St., Flushing, NY 11358, 212-939-7214.

If he wishes more info about our Club, have him contact our President, Don Avondolio, 6 Cherrywood Dr., E. Northport, NY 11731, 516-FO 8-1155. **H. J. Lasker, Treas.**

In response to Mr. F. Fisahn's question about weakfish streamers in May 11 Chum Lines, Orvis Co. of Vermont has a selection of saltwater streamers, the best of which is a green grass shrimp in size 1/0, among others. The only Orvis dealer in our area is Merrick Marine, 2370 Merrick Rd., in Bellmore, or you can write to the Orvis Co., Inc., Manchester, Vermont 05254. That's the complete address. They will send a

free spring 1978 catalog. **R. Berlin, E. Norwich, N.Y.**

TANGLE FREE TACKLE BOX

When carrying mackerel rigs in your tackle box, it is a good idea to wrap the open rig in aluminum foil. This will keep the rigs from tangling. **Robt. McKenzie, Brooklyn. N.Y.**

WESTPORT STRIPED BASS CLUB COMMENTS ON L.I.F. FISHING CONTEST

The W.S.B.C. at this time would like to thank the contest, and staff of The Fisherman. The large trophy we received, and mug, and pins, helped make 1977 and our Annual Dinner Dance and Awards Night a success. Incidentally, we were completely surprised by the trophy; we did not expect it. It's a beauty.

Your contest was by far the best we have ever entered. We especially liked points for weakfish. It helped us compete with clubs in the eastern part of the State. **R. A. Menzi, Jr., WSBC.**

BUCKTAILS IN THE SURF

Realizing that great skill is needed for bucktail fishing, we respectfully request that you publish an article or "How to do it" on the art of bucktailing for the surfcaster. We, as well as many others, would really benefit from these skills if we could learn them. This is what your magazine is for. To entertain and more importantly, to teach. Thank you. **J. Kaplen & B. Markson.**

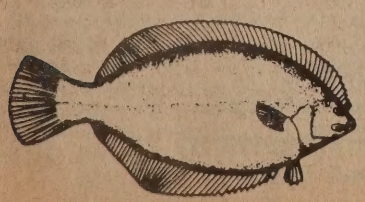
Okay! We've scheduled one for late fall. Keep an eye out.

FISH IN THE EAST RIVER?

I am a reader of your magazine and I have a question to ask you.

I hard of people catching fish in the East River, such as flounders, snappers, striped bass, eels and even a few tommy cod. I was wondering if it was because the water was getting cleaner or the fish adapting to the water, or maybe something other than that. **T. Cerasani, New York.**

There's nothing new about fish in the East River. Basically, we hear very little about fishing there because it is not the safest place to fish, and so many anglers avoid these grounds. New York waters are cleaner with respect to raw sewage, but the fish swam up and down the river when sewage was dumped profusely directly into it. Most fish do not avoid sewage-polluted sea water unless there is so much of it that it removes the oxygen.



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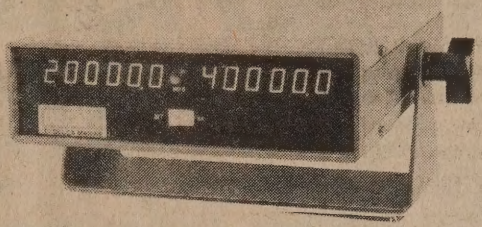

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These new reels with gold anodized skirted spools and jet black housings feature fast gear ratios: 750SS gear ratio 4.6 to 1 with 250 yds. of 20 lb. mono; whereas the 650SS is 4.8 to 1 and holds 200 yds. of 20 lb. mono. Weights: 26 oz. and 22 oz. Each has *3 stainless steel ball bearings*, stainless steel pinion gears, optional silent anti-reverse, special slow travel spool for uniform winding, and right/left convertible handle. To help defray postage and handling, send 50¢ for full color Penn Catalog, or pick-up your free copy at your local tackle dealer. Penn Reels, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132.

Shown: Penn 750SS Spinfisher

The Fisherman's LIBRARY

Modern Saltwater Sportfishing

by Frank Woolner

Salt Water Sportsman's famed editor has put it all together in one complete, entertaining and educating volume. From knots and terminal tackle to surf, boating, bay and pier techniques. From flounder and fluke to striped bass, snook and giant tuna, this book has it all. Woolner's easy to read style will make this one of the favorites on your book shelf. *365pgs., illus.*

Crown Publishers – Lists for $8.95
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★★★★★★★★★★★

Successful Bluefishing

by Henry Lyman

Salt Water Sportsman publisher Hal Lyman presents a lifetime of experience and research fishing for blues. Thorough coverage is given to the life cycle of the blue and to every angling method. *128 pgs., 75 illus.*

International Marine Pub. – Lists for $10
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★★★★★★★★★★★

Fiberglass Rod Making

by Dale Clemens

It's all here – every conceivable aspect of building fiberglass rods from the lightest trout wand to the largest big game trolling rod. Now you can make your own custom rods, tailored exactly to the kinds of fishing you do, to your physique, to the rod action you prefer, and to your tastse in decoration and finish. 190 pages of step-by-step instructions. *196 photos & dia.*

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The Captain's Cookbook

by Capt. Walter Kaprielian

Captain Walter Kaprielian of Montauk compiled, edited, wrote, designed and illustrated this wonderful book on simple, but delicious, recipes for the novice to cook his catch. Beautifully illustrated by the author with step-by-step diagrams, so easy to follow that Stu Miller can cook! *212 large 8½x11" pages, illus.*

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Best Ways To Catch More Fish

by Vlad Evanoff

A complete guide to better fishing, virtually all you need to know to match your catch with the experts. The emphasis is on method, and every kind of fishing is covered. From smallmouth bass to striped marlin, here are all the secrets – an encyclopedia of fishing knowledge! *228 pages, photos and diagrams.*

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Successful Striped Bass Fishing

by Frank T. Moss

Covers every aspect of striped bass fishing, from light tackle to wire lining, from boats to the surf, with chapters by the leading experts in the sport. *208 pg., 190 ill.*

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Modern Saltwater Fishing

by Vic Dunaway

Gives a step-by-step instruction in selecting matching tackle, choosing baits and lures, rigging baits, leaders, terminal tackle, etc. Procedures for trolling, drifting, and still fishing, inshore and offshore, from surf, pier and bridge. *286 pages, 143 photos and diagrams.*

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The Complete Book of Striped Bass

by Nicholas Karas

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CLUB NEWS

SALTY FLYRODDERS MEETING

The entrance of weakfish into the econics was tested by the "Salty" yrodders of N.Y., at their Master ycasters Rally at Shelter Island hich was held May 19 through May . Associated Saltwater flyrod chap-rs from Rhode Island, New Jersey, nd Connecticut were represented at is affair.

The monthly meeting of the New ork Chapter will be held at 8 PM, une 5 at Grace Lutheran Church, -20 21st Avenue, Astoria, L.I. A ummation of the annual outing and e fly fishing competition will be resented at this meeting. Saltwater y tying will be the theme, along with new film, "Tarpon Country," epicting saltwater fly rodding. Visi-rs are welcome and refreshements ill be served at the conclusion of the eeting.

RAMS ROD & REEL CLUB FLOUNDER TRIP

Rams Rod and Reel Club from the ronx, New York, held its first uincy, Mass. fishing trip of 1978.

With the stiff northeast winds and o-foot seas, in their little skiffs, the ardy fishermen who braved the foul eather did fairly well with their tches of flounder and pollack.

First prize honors went to Tom assalo, Sr., for his whopping 3 lb. ounder; second prize to Fred amsauer for his 2½ pounder.

Individual high hook honors to smo Pagano with upwards of 40 sh. For the boats that hung in there, e average catch was 80 to 100 fish r boat.

Holding true to form, the M.S.&J. at was Lou Galgano, forgetting his arm clothes back in the Bronx; Bill izalone remains the only fisherman ver to bait a hook; Rich Rao still ants to know why he is always the chor boy, and Fred Ramsauer, aptain, thank God.

NEW CLUB IS FORMED

We are proud to announce the ginning of a new fishing club called e New Hyde Park Anglers. Listed low are the following officers:

President and Asst. Scorekeeper: m Agro; Vice President and Official orekeeper: George Konzack; Secre-ry: Chris Constant, and Treasurer: ay Baxter.

Our First Derby takes place May 20 r blackfish with four other derbies heduled later on to include: weak-sh, striped bass, fluke and bluefish. /e are open for membership. For formation, please call: Sam Agro, 16-352-7964.

FARRAGUT JUNIOR FLOUNDER DERBY

The Farragut Striper Club held their Annual Junior Anglers Flounder Derby on Sunday, April 16 at The Store at Oak Beach. The winners were: Largest flounder—Richard Scamacca; Most flounder—David Lauridia.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY TUNA CLUB STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT

The S.B.T.C. announces a Striped Bass Tournament. It is to be held on June 10 and 11, Saturday and Sunday. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

The weigh-in stations are: Stella Maris (Sheepshead Bay) and Mansion Marina (Staten Island). Weigh-in times: Saturday and Sunday, 4 PM to 6PM.

First prize is 30 pound outfit, IGFA Custom Rod and Penn 4/0 Reel; 2nd Prize: 20 pound outfit, IGFA Custom Rod & Penn 3/0 reel; 3rd Prize: Bay Rod and matching reel-production Model.

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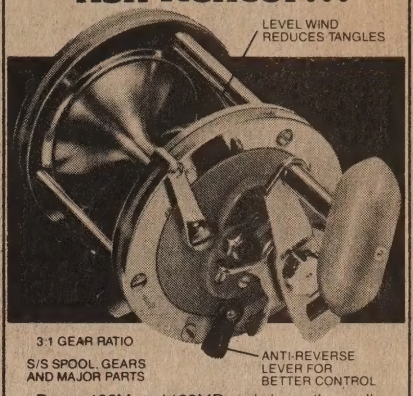

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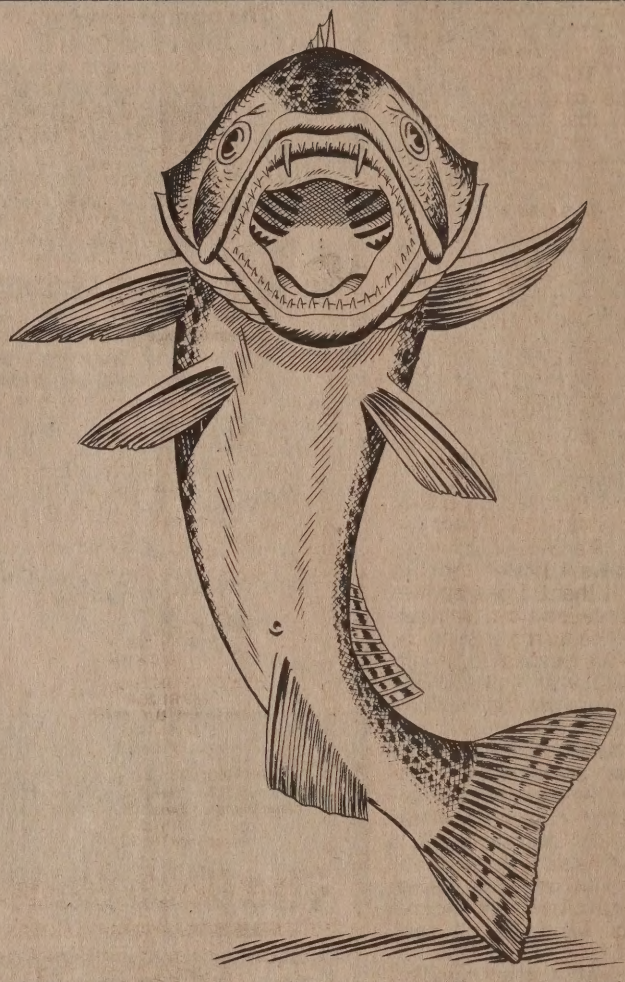
FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

"Yellowfin" Regalis



HI! MY HANDLE IS YELLOWFIN! Actually my real name is **Cynoscion,** but if you call me that to my face, I'll croak at you. The fancy name wasn't my mother's idea, either. Instead, it's been handed down to us from generation after generation of scientists. You call us weakfish, seatrout, trout, and tiderunners. Underwater, we know who we are, but our language is too alien to you humans for our names to have any real meaning. You see, my name in weakfish talk is, "cro-cro-awk-crok." What did I tell you: that gobble-d-goo does sound pretty senseless. That's why I picked up on the name "yellowfin." I got the idea from you fisherpeople with your CB craze. I was up in Long Island Sound a few years back, swimming around the Huntington area and overheard some fishermen talking to each other on the CB. "Spirit of '76" and "Packy" were their handles. I was able to get real close to them to listen because they were hunting striped bass, so I felt pretty safe.

SPEAKING OF STRIPED BASS! You know, those characters get downright pushy. They really throw their weight around down below the surface, especially if you bump into them around rock piles and drifts. They're fairly decent fish when they're swimming from one place to the other through open water, but when they sit behind a rock they don't want anybody hanging around. Look, we weakfish can't match those bass for size, so we really get pushed around.

WE GET HARD-KNOCKS FROM FISHERMEN, TOO! There are times when I've heard fishermen say that we don't fight. But, gee whiz, we can't help it that Mother Nature has carved out an ecological niche for us that has us swimming in your bays as early as the end of April. That water is cold, and let me tell you that it isn't easy meeting the expectations of sport fishermen when forty-eight degree temperatures give you a chill right down to your bones. You folks forget that fish are coldblooded and when the water is cold, our metabolism—or rate of body activity—tapers right off to zilch! Of course, we have to eat even when the water is cold, but most of us try to grub around the bottom for worms and other slow-moving food to keep body and soul together until things warm up. Your crazy Long Island weather doesn't help, either. A couple of years ago April air temperatures soared into the mid-nineties and that really got things warmed up a lot. This year, the water temperature is still in the mid-forties in spite of the fact that spring is more than half over.

WHAT A REVOLTIN' PREDICAMENT! That may have been Riley's favorite expression, but weakfish do not enjoy the "Life of Riley." It's no wonder that a lot of my brothers and sisters prefer to stay south all year-round. They can count on more stable water temperatures. Still, Long Island has its pleasures that are unique to this area.

WE ARE A PRETTY SECRETIVE SPECIES. For years, we had scientists convinced that we only successfully spawned in southern waters. It was a good joke on you while it lasted, but last year's samples showed the presence of our babies in all of your estuaries. We can't really blame you too much for not knowing about our spawning; after all, it was hard to study us when there were so few of us around. For more than twenty years, we did our thing and nobody bothered us. There were so few of us that neither sportsmen nor commercials sought us out. How peaceful it was! Still, there was the sadness among us because people had forgotten about us. We have a lot of pride, and we didn't like being a forgotten game fish. When we came back in force in the early 1970s, we were the talk of the town.

TALK OF THE TOWN! Fishermen invented special lures for us; light tackle rods and reels sold out, and thousands upon thousands of fishermen flocked to the bays every weekend in May to catch us. Can the other **Big Two** say that? You know who I mean: old pushy and toothy! And fishermen still go crazy over us. Sure, some of that early luster has worn off a little, but weakfish season is still prime sales season for tackle manufacturers and the boat trade.

OUR WAY! We try to fit into nature's scheme of things even though we don't like this roller coaster-type existence. Nobody likes to cycle up and down between peaks of abundance and valleys of decline, so deep, that most folks think that we are extinct. None of us like it, but that's the way it has to be. After we have had our time to shine we have to make room for somebody else to get their shot. There are compensations. Mother Nature has blessed us with a

reproductive capacity that is incredible. So when conditions are right, we can really turn it on! We've been going strong now for a little over eight years and that means that pretty soon now we'll have to relinquish our dominance of the inshore scene. For now there are plenty of us. In fact, at times it gets real crowded down here.

IF YOU WANT TO CATCH US? No fish likes to be caught; but once again, we know that this is part of nature's scheme and we accept it. I was almost caught once. I was about three pounds and I lunged at this bright thing that was bouncing along the bottom. In the spring, the water is very murky and I only got a quick look at it. I thought that it was a small squid, but it turned out to be a fisherman's lure. Well, I pulled until I thought that my little heart was going to explode and then my tissue paper lips pulled apart, and I was free. Since then, I have been a lot more careful. I'm a lot bigger now and I don't go chasing after all those little bright colored lures anymore. Last time I had a check-up, I weighed a healthy ten pounds. I'm getting old, but there is still a good fire in my furnace. Anyway, nowadays I prefer the big baits. If I can get them, I like bunker and eels best, because I can eat less frequently and save up my energy for a night out with the boys rollin' in the eelgrass. But last year I had to do what a lot of ther game fish had to do—eat sand eels!

HARD WORK! Sure, I feel sorry for those sand eels, what with everything from sea robins to cow bass trying to eat them, but a fella has to live you know. Do you think that it's easy eating sand eels? Well, it isn't. First you have to find them, and when you find them, you often have to push them out of the sand. Those bass don't mind taking in a mouthful of sand when they eat, but my delicate guts can't take that grinding sand! So I have to wait until they come out of the sand. No sooner do those little...."er" critters come out of the sand, they start swimming in ten thousand directions, hell-bent for leather. If I dont react fast, then I'll go hungry. And there's a danger in that. If I can't think before I strike, sooner or later I'll be fooled by some fisherman's lure and bye-bye "yellowfin."

AT MY BEST! But when the water is warm and I'm chasing sand eels, I'm at my fighting best. I can't help but get all charged up. My muscles are tuned tight as a drum skin and when I make a run, there's more than one fisherman who will think that he or she is tied to a good bluefish! I guess that the body was meant to be worked. I get awfully lethargic when I feed on big baits. I eat a few during the day and then sleep or "hang-out" all night. When the menu is sand eels, I have to eat all day and all night, too! It's a real drag. The more I swim after those squirmy things, the more energy I use up and the more I have to eat. See—I bet that you thought we had it easy.

INSTANT REPLAY! Each winter the big fish get together out on the Continental Shelf and we plan things for the coming year. It's cold down there at fifty fathoms, so we do things kind of slow, but we do have all winter. Most of the big boys are convinced that this year will be a repeat of last year: plenty of sand eels. The **Super-Chief** says that we should have a good spawning year. Everyone listens to Super-Chief. His check-up revealed him to be in excellent health and he weighed in at thirty-one pounds, two ounces! He's one mean dude. I envy him, because he's so smart—he didn't get that big without being smart. I also envy him because at that size he doesn't take any guff from either those pushy bass or the nasty bluefish. He stands right up to them. He looks them in the eye and shows them his big fangs and they think twice about taking him on. Anyway, if the boys in the know are right, most of us will feed in Long Island Sound, Montauk, and off the south shore bays again this year. I'll probably get in trouble for letting that one out of the bag; but like I said, we all have our place in the natural scheme of things and that includes fishermen. Hey—some of my best friends are fishermen!

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

FLUKE FISHING

★ *Part Three* ★

This article is the last of a three-part series on fluke fishing. Parts One and Two covered shore and boat fishing respectively. In this, we'll check out those baits and rigs so necessary for successful fishing. Because of its importance, it is perhaps best if we first discuss proper rigging. Most experienced fishermen I know have their own tried-and-proven methods when rigging for fluke and I'm not about to suggest they adopt mine. I doubt if they'd change, anyway. And actually, why should they? If their riggings produce fish, that's all that matters. So I'll do the next best thing and tell you how I go about snagging a fluke or two. There are two riggings I use, neither of which is earth-shattering, and both being so similar that whether I use one or the other depends mostly upon the whim of the moment. I have never noticed any appreciable difference in my net results. (No pun intended.) If you are expecting any "secret" rigs, I'm afraid you may be disappointed, unless as a fishing buddy pointed out, the secret of their fish-ability is in their simplicity, for all I've ever used are two variations of the basic fluke rig. But these produce so well for me, I doubt if I'd ever change, no matter what results other fishermen may receive with gadgets such as colorful beads, spinner blades, imitation pearl gizmos, and the like.

Actually, because I am an old-fashioned fisherman in this respect, you couldn't get me within ten feet of one of those fluke spinner rigs—productive claims or not. When it comes to fluke rigs, I believe it is always best to keep them as simple as possible. And what is more simple than a three-foot leader and a suitable hook?

I know locating three-foot leaders can be time-consuming, but when you get a minute, drop a card to Midland Tackle Co., 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, N.Y. 10974, and request one of their free catalogs. In it you will find twenty pound leader (snelling) material listed in forty-seven inch lengths. This is the weight you need for best bait presentation. You will find this length is more than you need; but if you cut off several inches and add the necessary knot at each end, that extra material will be taken care of. That length, plus the addition of a suitable snelled hook will give you a three-foot leader, or close to it.

So now with that difficulty out of the way, let's proceed.

Some fishermen I know place their leaders on the main line as much as a foot above the sinker, using a double-overhand loop or three-way swivel, but I never do. I simply add a "Quick-Rig" about two inches above the sinker and attach my leadered hook to it. These gadgets cost but pennies and are available in any well-stocked tackle shop. I no longer bother with a three-way swivel, but simply put my trust in the "Quick-Rig." I have never had one let go and have no hesitation about using them, even for codfishing.

The second method is to employ a sinker snap and place both leader and sinker together. These two methods work quite well for me because I find it isn't necessary to have a sensitive control over the line when fluke fishing, as it would be for more wary bottom feeders such as blackfish. A fluke that has already made up its mind to attack your bait is, in the true sense of the word, anything but suspicious. I'm aware there is room for debate here, but I have never found it otherwise, and this is what I go by. I've caught an awful lot of fluke over the years with these simple rigs.

We come now to the important part of your terminal tackle: your hook. The standard fluke hook has long been the Carlisle pattern in sizes 3/0 or 4/0. These long-shanked hooks are just what the doctor ordered when hook removal time is at hand. Those wicked-looking teeth in that gaping mouth can do a pretty good job on careless fingers if given half a chance.

I've mentioned this particular hook because most fishermen use them and have no fault to find; but I personally like a regular-shanked 4/0 Sproat much better. There's only one hitch: if this hook is deeply swallowed (which is a common occurrence), unless you know how to remove it by carefully reaching through the gill cover, troubles are bound to arise.

I use Sproats because they are lighter than Carlisles—not weaker, just lighter. This difference may not be much, but they do give live bait better action, which in turn, makes it more attractive to prowling fluke. It is these little things that put fish in the bucket.

So now you have a rundown on how I rig for fluke. Whether you use either of these methods is entirely up to you, of course. But before we leave this interesting subject, let me caution you against using a length of monofilament from your reel as a leader substitute: forget it. It will not take the place of proper leader material because of its inherent limpness. It will fail to keep the bait out and away from the main line, causing it to coil, kink, and twist, giving you no end of trouble throughout the day. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Bait is never a problem for fluke fishermen. Anything that swims or appears to be swimming and is of suitable size is accepted by the ever-hungry fluke. Some baits, though, are more preferred than others, and it is to the fisherman's advantage to use these at all times. I'll list my favorites.

Personally, I don't believe there is a finer bait for inshore fluke fishing than a lively two-inch killie. This size seems to bring best results, although there are times when smaller killies do the trick. Just when these times might be is impossible to tell, so don't discard those small killies. If fishing slows down, try one. It might just do it. I know they have often worked for me.

The best way to hook killies is through the mouth and out the gill cover—carefully! If you don't nick the gills, which are actually the fish's lungs, they will stay alive a good long time. They are pretty tough customers for their size. Some fishermen place the hook through both lips, but I'm not too crazy about this, because if a fluke pounces on the bait in the process of being jigged off bottom, it is easily stolen. Hooking the killie in the mouth and out the gill cover makes it necessary for the fluke to engulf the entire bait before wrenching it free.

I've found that those two hooking methods are best. The worst way is to hook a killie through the back, especially when drifting or trolling. This only succeeds in twisting and kinking your line in such a manner that even if you use a swivel, it will not help one bit. Some fellows hook their killie through the tail, which is okay if you're anchored and fishing a dead line, but I don't think a tail-hooked killie is much appreciated by fluke when drifting or trolling. I'm sure most fluke have never seen a killie swim backwards.

Fresh spearing are also good bait. They should be used by running the hook through the head and then back again midway through the body. But unless you seine your own spearing, those you will buy will most likely be frozen. When they thaw, they become soft--meaning you will have the devil's own time keeping them from bunching up around the bend of the hook. This, of course, doesn't look natural, and most times fluke will avoid sloppy-looking baits.

I say "most times" because I remember doing a little fluke fishing in one of Seaford's backwater creeks when bunched spearing was the piece de resistance of the day. You just cannot figure fish one hundred percent at any time, but what I have said about bunched bait usually holds true.

Sand eel is another good bait and also pretty hard to come by in its fresh state; but these are a little less difficult to handle than spearing because when thawed they still retain some firmness. Run the hook through the body the same way as for spearing. You'll find sand eels are especially effective around ocean inlets.

Even small, live bergalls shouldn't be overlooked. I've had much success with them when fishing around

jetties and breakwaters. Hook the same as for live killies.

To my mind, there is no finer strip bait for inshore fluke fishing than a slice of sea robin. It's tough and it is not unusual to catch a half-dozen fish with one piece before it becomes too ragged for further use.

Preparation is easy and takes but seconds. Don't scale. Leaving the scale on keeps the bait supple and attractive. Hold the robin down by the head, preferably with a rag to avoid the sharp spines, and with a sharp knife make a cut to the backbone just aft of the vent. Then run the knife along the bone to the tail and remove the strip. Repeat on the other side. Slice each strip in half, lengthways, saving the white or lightest slices for fishing over mud bottoms and the darker pieces for sand.

You'll notice those pieces used on mud bottom will eventually pick up silt and other debris. Discard when this happens and use a fresh piece. It is important to keep this bait as appealing as possible.

If you wish, the white side of your smaller legal-size fluke can be removed and cut into three-inch strips and used in the manner of sea robin. This used to be a common practice years ago, but isn't done much anymore. You'll find, though, that if you combine this with a live killie when drifting along the ocean beaches, you will have an irresistible bait. It doesn't work well inside bays.

Squid is another good bait and should be cut into pennant-shaped strips about four inches long. If you gently tap each strip a few times with the back of the knife before placing on the hook, its natural oils will be released and be more effective.

When placing any fish bait on your hook, it is important that you hook it once—and **once** only—at the widest part. Don't run that hook through a second time if you want your bait to be presented in a natural-like manner. And presenting bait in a natural-like manner to fluke is the name of the game. If you overlook this important requirement, you will catch few fluke. Here again, a word to the wise is sufficient.

One important thing when using any of these fish baits: you will seldom feel a bite in the true sense of the word. What you will feel is sudden weight. Just give the fish a few seconds to get it down. Don't be in too great a hurry to set the hook. If you work it right, that fish is going nowhere but in your bucket. Therefore, it is strictly to your advantage to allow all fluke time to munch when using fish strips.

There may be a few minor things that prove important on certain days, but I can't help you with them. These are only found through experience and I couldn't possibly list them all, for they may only work on occasion. For instance, my experience with bunched spearing in that Seaford creek. It has never happened to me since, but you may be sure it is at the back of my mind when things slow down. I'm likely then to trot it out. So what if it doesn't work at the moment? It did once, and may again.

Fluke fishing isn't difficult, but it does become tricky at times. But now that you've got the basics, there's no reason in the world why you shouldn't be able to go out there and get your share.

I'm sure you'll do okay.

METAL METAMORPHOSIS

(Continued from page 27.)

the record seekers would play such games. Whereas today's creative fishermen have changed many old-timers' minds in techniques and tackle. Light line anglers (below the twenty pound class) seem to favor a parabolic styled rod, where the bow or curvature is full from tip to reel.

A combination quick tip and powerful base section is what some metal lure casters seek in a rod. The narrow tip is flexible, strong, and very sensitive. Shakespeare's Ugly blanks are available to the do-it-yourself anglers who like to build their own custom jig rods: #12-0437 is a seven foot, light action blank, whereas, #12-0465 is a heavier shaft. Lamiglas also has three blanks available to rod builders of matt cloth Fiberglas; #6702 is a seven footer in light action; #6703 is also a seven foot shaft in medium, quick taper action and the eight footer, #6807, is a heavy blank. Fenwick, who produces fine rod blanks, has three popular numbers for the jigging fishermen: #LB844 is light in action and is seven feet; LB969 comes in eight feet, medium action, and #JB968 is also eight feet, which is a powerhouse.

All fishermen feel that they personally have conquered nature's pattern when a new mode of angling is brought out. Actually, there is nothing new in sport fishing methods that has not been tried before (except plastic worm angling because of its time introduction). Whether called "diamond jigging" or "metallic fishing" or "vertical angling," it probably has traveled this way before. I am not at all astonished to see imaginative anglers revive an old situation and take advantage of Mother Nature's generosity. Another bait is now materializing strongly, while others are fading out, but not in its entirety. The trend now leans toward metal metamorphosis with the return of the sand eel, but watch for a new pattern in time to come.

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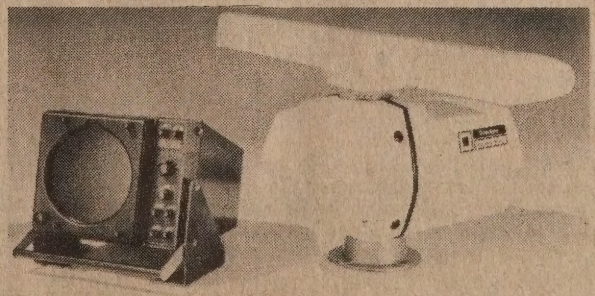

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Having gained experience through some freshwater fly fishing endeavors, as well as spending some few years in the surf, I started saltwater fly fishing with the opinion that fly selection did not matter nearly as much as the manner in which the fly was presented. With this in mind, I did some research into time-proven saltwater fly patterns and did meet with some success. However, my results indicated that either the locations, the fishing methods, or my flies left something to be desired. Although I was admittedly depressed insofar as the amount of time I spent only to yield mediocre results, I honestly felt that I was pretty close to finding the right answer. In short order, enough facts were gathered to sufficiently prove that the problem was in fly selection. In hindsight, I suppose at this point I could have asked any one of a number of most courteous fly casters who frequent our waters and gotten some pretty sound advice. However, I've always believed that you learn more through self-discovery, and so I started looking for better fly patterns. As it turned out, the answer was quite simple and so were the flies. At this point, I am of the firm belief that to be fully prepared one need not carry more than four patterns—three of which should be in various colors. Of these, two patterns in two colors are used at least seventy-five percent of the time. We'll discuss each pattern specifically and the manner in which it is tied.

Surf Side with Paul Reynolds

FLY ROD WEAKFISH

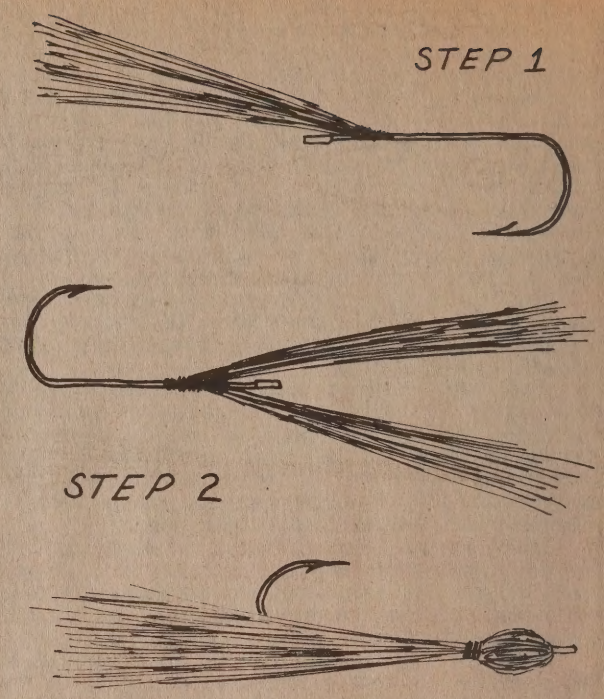
Part II—FLIES

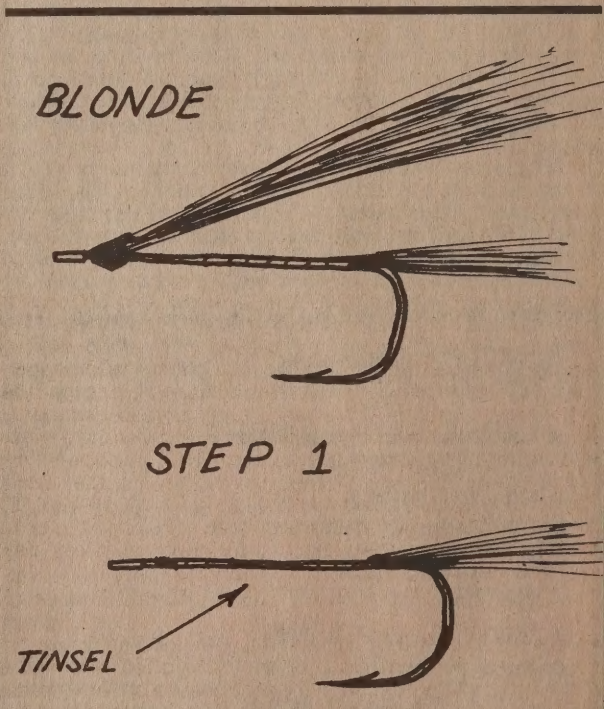
Once the decision has been made to either tie your own flies, have flies made for you, or purchase commercially made flies, it is of prime importance that the materials used be of a superior nature. Materials in this case not only means the hook, feathers, etc., but includes the manner in which the fly was tied. Many flies simply do not work because of the way they are tied.

The fly that I use most often is patterned after a series of flies called the Thunder Creek series and was developed by a Mr. Fulsher for freshwater trout fishing. Although I am not positive, I believe patterns were tied in the manner to be described long before Mr. Fulsher developed his series and were known as reverse tied bucktails. This particular pattern was used rather than a conventionally tied bucktail for three reasons: **1.** Does not foul when casting. **2.** Is fuller bodied, with excellent buoyancy. **3.** Is extremely durable—to the point that it even works better when munched a few times.

I tie this pattern on size 1/0 stainless hooks. The finished product varies from about one-and-a-half to four inches in length. I carry four separate colors: they include yellow, white, orange and black. Yellow and orange are used about ninety percent of the time. All are constructed using bucktail which is dyed to the proper color. Construction is simple. Colonel Bates in his book, **Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing**, provides meticulous diagrams and tying instructions, as well as a history of the fly itself.

The second type pattern which is used extensively was patterned directly after a series of flies developed as an all-purpose saltwater pattern by Mr. Brooks. Originally, I had overlooked the "Blonde Series" (also spelled Blond) of flies because I had felt that their size would be too small. Nothing could be further from the truth. This particular pattern is also constructed from bucktail, with the addition of tinsel. The same colors that were used for the Thunder Creek type fly are used and they are tied on 1/0 stainless hooks. Construction is very simple, with the noted exception that additional turns of thread should be made under the front grouping of bucktails. This will elevate it slightly, greatly reducing the possibility of fouling when cast. This particular pattern



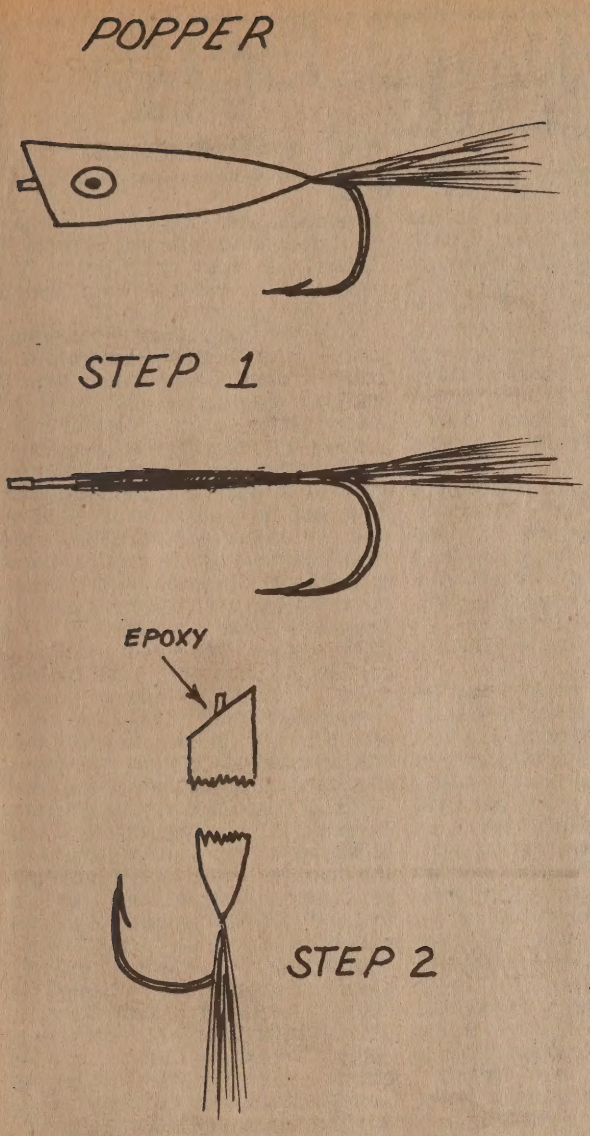


was chosen for three reasons:

1. Obvious need for a smaller fly.
2. Excellent action and flash in water.
3. Does not foul when cast, if tied properly.

If your fly tying experience is limited, Art Flick's "Master Fly-Tying Guide" gives detailed information of this pattern.

The two patterns just discussed are used at leas



seventy-five percent of the time. The last two patterns to be discussed here are used only in specific instances. The first is a small popper. A gentleman named Barney Lipthjay demonstrated to me how to fashion these poppers from the caps of Bic pens. I have since used his technique. Another gentleman, Al Apmann, a fellow club member of mine, fashions his from half of the surf corks used when bait fishing. Al's work is always excellent: his poppers are no different. They are simple, impressive and they work. The choice of materials for the body is up to you. Of importance, however, is that the front lip of the popper be set to the proper degree. I experiment a great deal between twenty-five and thirty degrees.

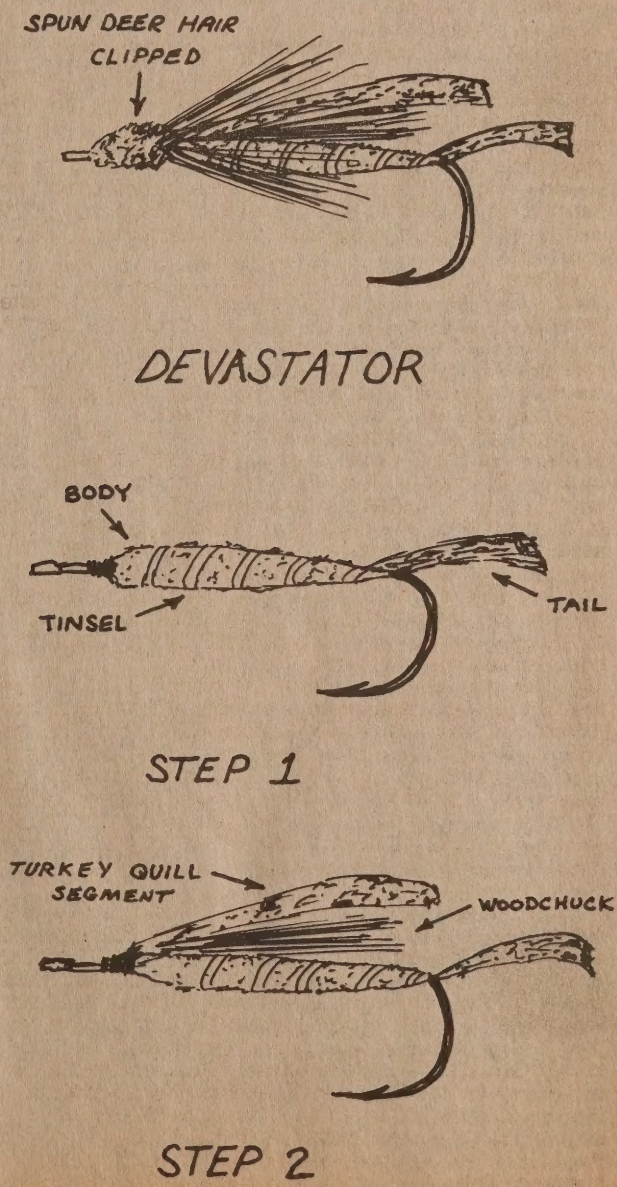
I use the popper under certain conditions which include: splashy surface feeding (not the usual slurp, and as an attractor type pattern when no feeding is heard. Other fly fishermen use poppers more often and under other more varied circumstances. Because of the success that I have had with other flies, I have limited myself to the two situations mentioned.

The last pattern that I carry was developed from a freshwater pattern shown to me for the first time by a gentleman named John Goodleaf, with whom I was able to fish on the Ausable River a few years back. His pattern is called the "Goodleaf Devastator" and is a variation of the now-famous freshwater pattern, the Muddler Minnow. It is used when actively feeding fish have refused the first or second pattern discussed. It has proven its weight in gold.

The pattern is very difficult for a neophyte fly tyer. Materials for this pattern include the use of turkey quill segments for tail and wing, a fine yellow dubbing and gold tinsel for the body; a woodchuck underwing and a spun deer hair head and collar. The diagrams illustrate the procedure normally used to fashion this fly. I am probably the only person on the Island to use this fly for saltwater fly fishing. I suggest that you start learning how to tie the other patterns and as your skills develop, work up to the "Devastator." Tying procedures are almost identical to the Muddler Minnow and you can use Art Flick's book mentioned earlier for detailed tying instructions if necessary.

The four patterns that have been described are certainly not the only patterns that will take weakfish. They are, however, patterns which work, and work well. They are durable, are not prone to fouling when cast and are easily constructed. And, assuming that you can tie your shoelaces, in short order you will have prepared an assortment of flies that can be fished confidently in any of our Long Island waters.

Next week, the final segment of this series concludes with a discussion of the flies that are used in fly rodding for striped bass and bluefish.



NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

House Bluefish & Tuna Hearings A Disappointment

The cause of fisheries conservation didn't fare well at all during the hearings on bluefish and bluefin tuna, conducted by the Fisheries Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in Washington on April 24. For some time, we've been calling for hearings on the question of including tuna in the 200-Mile Limit law. Unfortunately, due to the intense public reaction to rumors about tuna seiners going into a bluefish export operation, bluefish were added to the same hearing, and the net result was mass confusion.

Subcommittee Chairman Robert Leggett is a California Democrat, with no knowledge of the importance of the bluefish fishery to East Coast sport fisheries. Confusion increased as witnesses testified about both species and usually referred to the tuna as "bluefins." With comments about bluefish and bluefins swirling around, it was hardly surprising that valid conservation arguments got lost in the process.

As usual, sport fishing interests were poorly represented. Captains Howard Bogan and Dave Bramhall, from Brielle, testified very effectively for the New Jersey party and charter boat owners, but no one else was there to represent either the millions of anglers involved in these fisheries or the party and charter boats, tackle shops, motels, etc., which benefit from them. I presented the official position of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Managment Council that we are taking on bluefish as a management concern and hope to have an approved plan in effect by next year. As it turned out, even this proposal became the subject of controversy.

The tuna seiners—both East and West Coast—were well represented. The presence of the East Coast seiners enabled the Subcommittee to at least sort out the bluefish rumors. The "White Dove," operating out of Cape May did, indeed, take about 100,000 pounds of bluefish last year. However, that catch was sold on the domestic market and was taken only as a means of putting a few extra dollars in the pockets of crew members when nothing else was going on. Both the "White Dove" and Lund's Fisheries (Cape May) testified that no foreign contracts existed; nor did they know of any prospects for such contracts. The "White Dove" intends to take bluefish on an occasional basis once again this summer, but contends that this will not affect bluefishing in the area.

The actual source of the bluefish export rumor turned out to be Massachusetts tuna seiner, Frank Cygnowski. Frank was the originator of East Coast tuna seining and is one of the most innovative commercial fishermen on the Coast. He testified that he had an arrangement with a group of Japanese restaurants to ship them twenty tons of frozen bluefish in order to determine if that species would be accepted by the Japanese consumer. All of this is tentative, as a price hasn't yet been negotiated. Frank also emphasized the difficulties involved in catching and handling bluefish: primarily the chewed-up netting. Just as is the case with the "White Dove," Cygnowski's boat, the "A. A. Ferrante," has set on bluefish occasionally in the past for "beer money."

What Frank didn't mention was the implications of his experimental shipment. If a market develops, it's still unlikely that any significant dent in the bluefish population (except possibly in local availability) will be made by a couple of East Coast seiners. On the other hand, if the price is right, we'll surely see the return of the West Coast tuna seiners, or a new generation of local seiners, build up just as fast as the surf clam fleet was when the price suddenly shot up. Even I had to concede that there doesn't appear to be any immediate problem, but the longer term could be a different story and development of a bluefish management plan that will enable the Council to act in a timely fashion remains a top priority.

The surprising aspect of all this testimony was the attitude of the Committee that perhaps the Council shouldn't develop a management plan for bluefish after all. Their attitude was that since there doesn't seem to be an imminent crisis, there is no reason to get involved in regulation. Congressman Bill Hughes (D.-Cape May) argued that there should be a "clear and present danger" before the Council takes action. He later modified that emphasis, but still maintained that we shouldn't try to manage a fishery unless it was absolutely necessary. I took sharp exception to this concept, as I feel it is not in accord with the law that this same Committee wrote.

According to Public Law 94-265, Title III, Section 302(h), "Each Council shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act—(1) prepare and submit to the Secretary a fishery management plan with respect to each fishery within its geographical area of authority and, from time to time, such amendments to each plan as are necessary." The law could not be clearer in regard to the Council's responsibilities. There is no mention of "clear and present danger," "crisis," or even "problems." The charge is to manage **each** fishery within our geographic area!

Why the Congressional reluctance to see the Council formulate a bluefish management plan, even if that plan (as presently intended) will involve little, or no, regulation? I suspect it involves the hassles evolving from the New England Council's groundfish plan, our own surf clam plan, and the Pacific Council's salmon plan. In each case, domestic fishermen have been strictly regulated and, by and large, they don't like it! Many domestic fishermen were under the impression that the 200-Mile Limit fight was just to "throw the foreigners out." However, that couldn't solve all of our problems. Intense foreign fishing has finally forced us to face the fact that, no different than the freshwater situation, we cannot harvest indiscriminately and still expect to reap the benefits of healthy fisheries in the future. It makes little difference at this point as to who did the damage. The Councils must take the necessary conservation measures to attempt to bring back overfished species (with minimum economic dislocation) and, at the same time, develop management schemes for other fisheries that will serve to prevent similar situations from developing. The responsibility is ours and cannot be ignored even if Congress would rather see us hold back in order to stop the protests of those more interested in a fast buck than the long-term health of the fishery.

Fortunately, the Council at its May meeting in Cape May decided to go ahead with the bluefish plan on a priority basis. Hopefully, Congress will come to understand the necessity for investigating fisheries before a crisis occurs—at which time there is a real opportunity to prevent future problems!

With all the concentration on bluefish, things didn't go well for the bluefin tuna, either. More about that next week.

FIBERGLASS REPAIRS & PAINTING

by Jim Loe

Along about this time of year, thousands of boaters make that first trip to the storage yard, or take the tarp off the old bucket in the back yard and get their first shock of the season. Either the weather has had a greater effect than you thought on the old hull, or wear and tear has done more wearing and tearing than you anticipated, or maybe the local juvenile population has made their presence known through a tidy series of initials or gouges in the Fiberglas. Whatever the case, most boaters usually think of one more big bill to pay to the "experts."

But, wait. Don't abandon hope and turn the boat over to the yardman to repair or paint. With just a little bit of knowledge and the investment in some rudimentary tools and parts, **you** can do just as good a job on your Fiberglas boat as those expensive "experts."

Before getting started, there are several things you should know about that Fiberglas boat you (and your bank) own. First, the gouges, scratches, grazes, or whatever that you see are not in the Fiberglas but actually in the resin that combines with the glass cloth to provide the tough, durable material of which your boat is made. Second, most manufacturers also use something called a gel-coat. This is the material that is applied to the mold first, before any glass or resin is applied.

The gel-coat is not very thick; it is measured in terms of mils rather than inches; but is is extremely durable and tough and provides a long-lasting high gloss finish for your boat. It is this long lasting gel-coat that makes Fiberglas hulls so easy to keep looking new for years.

In effect, all but extremely major damage to your boat will require a repair to the gel-coat, or the gel-coat and a thin thickness of resin—not the glass itself.

Now, some elementary facts about Fiberglas boat manufacture. Whether your boat is hand-laid glass cloth or glass applied with a "chopper" gun that fires ground-up Fiberglas into the mold, there must be a means of getting the resultant component out of the mold once it has set and begun curing. Even with a gel-coat in place first, the hull would bond permanently to the mold if it were not for a special mold release wax or similar substance applied to the mold first. This permits easy popping or removing of the component without damage.

This mold release wax or substance is also extremely tough with a very long life span. It has absolutely no effect on the appearance or performance of boat, but it is there and it must be removed before attempting any Fiberglas repairs.

So, step number one before beginning **any** Fiberglas repair or painting is remove the mold wax. This is a simple procedure utilizing any one of a number of available Fiberglas boat solvents. Apply the solvent liberally over the area in question. In fact, in the case of a repair, it might not be a bad idea to go over the entire section in question since it probably will be necessary to repaint that entire section to hide the repair.

Another thing to keep in mind as you get ready to start is that since a Fiberglas surface is, by its very nature, very hard and smooth, it is a good idea to rough-up the surface to allow the repair or paint to have some "bite." This can be accomplished by sanding the surface with 80-120 grit paper and even following that with a second sanding with 240-320 grit.

Now, down to repairing damage. Deep gouges and scratches should first be filled in with a surfacing compound. This is a putty-like material applied with a putty knife. Allow a half hour or so for it to dry, sand smooth, and that's all there is to it. The filled-in area is now ready for painting.

Painting presents its own variety of situations. If it is to be applied below the waterline, it is a good idea to use an anti-fouling paint, of which there are numerous types ranging from simple general purpose to specialized super-slick racing finishes.

Some of these bottom paints **must** not be applied directly to a Fiberglas surface, or rapid peeling and overall poor performance will result. These require a special primer to prepare the surface before the actual paint is applied. **Read** the label instructions to be sure.

When buying a bottom paint for your Fiberglas boat, first determine its use and whether or not you pull the boat out after each use.

Bottom paint is expensive and there is not a bit of advantage to be gained by getting an extra hard, durable finish. For example, if you normally trailer the boat, a simple general purpose bottom paint should suffice. If high speed and performance is your aim, look into a racing finish. If you keep your boat in an area that is highly susceptible to extreme marine growth, there are bottom coatings for you, too.

If you are working above the waterline, you probably would want something that would restore the "like-new" gel-coat appearance of the boat.

There are many Fiberglas paints and compounds on the market which will provide a finish that outshines the original gel-coat—assuming you follow instructions.

By far, the most complaints received by paint manufacturers about poor results can quickly be traced to the ineptitude of the person manning the brush or roller.

First, check the label to see if a primer is necessary. Polyurethane finishes do not need a primer, but they do present a new set of rules. More about that shortly.

If deep wounds are evident, get out the filler and apply. If your surface problem is minor scratches or gel-coat grazing, an undercoat paint will usually take care of those without any further work.

If you are a perfectionist and looking to emulate the gel-coat, you will have to use a polyurethane. As I said, these do not require primers, but they do require extreme care in application.

These are two-part finishes that must have both components mixed together. Depending on the maker, the polyurethanes can be applied by brush, roller or spray, although spray does appear to be the most common method of application. The polyurethanes are exceptionally hard and high gloss, but extreme care **must** be taken to follow the directions on the can.

Outside of major structural damage, it's a best bet to turn a project like that over to the experts; after all, you are the one who will be on board the boat.

If you require more information, just write to any of the major marine paint companies and they will all be glad to send you a brochure or booklet, giving you full information on the use of their products. Good Painting!

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Go For Broke!

by Dave Curti

It was the fifth day of my vacation and Long Island waters had yielded one lousy dogfish. For five days and nights, I had alternately tried to persuade a bass to take my plugs and bunker chunks. Even my home base, Lido Beach, had bombed out.

Saturday morning remained fishless. A vacation without fish? At twelve o'clock, the phone rang. It was Bruce. The pipeline informed me that Long Island was dead.

It was the middle of June and there were no bunker. Even more importantly, where were all those sand eels that had filled the waters of the south shore just a week ago?

"The sand eels are in Cape Cod by now," I said, joking.

"You're right! ...Second Rip at Race Point."

"What?"

"Provincetown, The Cape."

"But that's a twelve-hour round trip. Bruce, you're crazy!"

By two o'clock, Bruce Newmark, Dean Diamondpel and I were heading north. It was then that Bruce informed us that a two-mile hike along the beach to Second Rip awaited us when we got there. Two-foot drive instead of four-wheel horses...

Plug selection had been a fifteen minute operation...back in New York. Strategy had been planned during the numerous feedbag stops for Bruce. At eight o'clock, we arrived at the parking lot by the lighthouse to find six to ten pound blues hitting the beach two hundred yards from the car.

Dean was first on the beach. Bruce doesn't dress as fast as he eats and was second. By the time I got to the beach, they both had a couple of blues apiece.

For some reason, I have not taken many blues from the surf over the years. However, bass and I get along quite well and this time was no exception. Soon seventeen pounds of striper lay on the beach. Dean landed another blue and Bruce took a bass of about twenty-three pounds. What we soon realized was that a school of large bass had moved in, persuading the blues to depart. Twenty pounders began to litter the beach.

Darkness fell, bringing a heavy fog, phosphorescence and an exception to every rule of nighttime bass fishing. Everyone knows that if you insist upon fishing with "fire" in the water, your plug must become a snail. Well, no one had informed the bass.

Soon I found myself having reel trouble in the middle of a cast. I had to remove the spool to tighten a loose nut. I replaced the spool and began to reel the plug in quickly figuring it had drifted halfway down the beach out of productive waters. An explosion of phosphorescence lit up the horizon. The drag wasn't set right and I lost the fish. At about the same time, Bruce had also discovered the fast retrieve and a familiar "I'm in" came from the fog.

Most of the night, we had been beaching or gaffing our own fish, so Dean's cry for a gaff took us by surprise. I was in the process of getting another plug and Bruce was unhooking a fish.

"Get out of there, Dave," Bruce shouted, almost knocking me on my butt. "You forgot to sharpen your gaff." His first shot landed just under the head of a thirty-plus fish.

Dean looked like a kid with his first snapper! The entire trip up, all he had talked about was how he wanted to take a bass over thirty pounds. He wanted to mount it. Bruce's turn came next, with Dean doing the gaffing—I didn't dare go near it. Admittedly, I am not the world's best gaffer.

At this point, I realize that you are probably wondering what plugs we were using. Bruce used a Rapala Magnum most of the night; Dean a Super Rebel. I started with a Cordell swimmer and later tried a new Gibb's swimmer.

It's a great feeling to have a fish take a new plug on its very first cast; it gave credence to my belief that I had the hottest plug on the beach. It had the hooks straightened twice. In fact, if you can believe it, one fish actually parted the line and then ran back over it, tangling it around one of the treble hooks on the plug. P.S.—I landed the fish.

Just before the tide died, Bruce and I both hit fish that we just couldn't handle. I never thought I would say this, but in all my years of plugging with a spinning outfit, I have never wished so hard for my conventional. The drag just kept singing. I am not going to take any guesstimates as to its weight; I know it was a bass and I know it was big! It took the plug, of course!

I hate to include a negative note, but think it is necessary, as it is something I do feel very strongly about. At slack tide, we walked down to Second Rip and discovered a picket line of fishermen. They were uneasy about our presence, especially when they learned that we were from New York.

Apparently there had been an incident about a dozen Brooklyn fishermen (I use the term loosely) that had invaded the beach like animals at a kill. Not only had they broken into the picket line and cast over the backs of other fishermen, but they had even had the audacity to chase other fishermen away from the fish. From what I could gather, only sheer weight of numbers had protected them from getting gaffed by the Massachusetts surfmen. It only takes one group of "low lifes" to give New York surfmen the shaft. Aren't there enough beaches closed to us already?

Once the Massachusetts fishermen found we were in no way associated with this other group, the tension eased and we had some great fish-talk. The fishing had been good at Second Rip, but we had had a longer run at the lighthouse. Unlike our fish, most of the fish at Second Rip were caught on Atom Juniors fished slowly.

The only way to describe the fishing conditions is "easy." There was no pounding surf to contend with; we stood in knee-deep water making short casts into waters teeming with sand eels and squid. Ah, pure pleasure, just pure pleasure!

When the tide changed, we worked our way down the beach back towards the lighthouse. We took a couple of fish at dawn, and I had another plug shattered, but it was nothing like the night before.

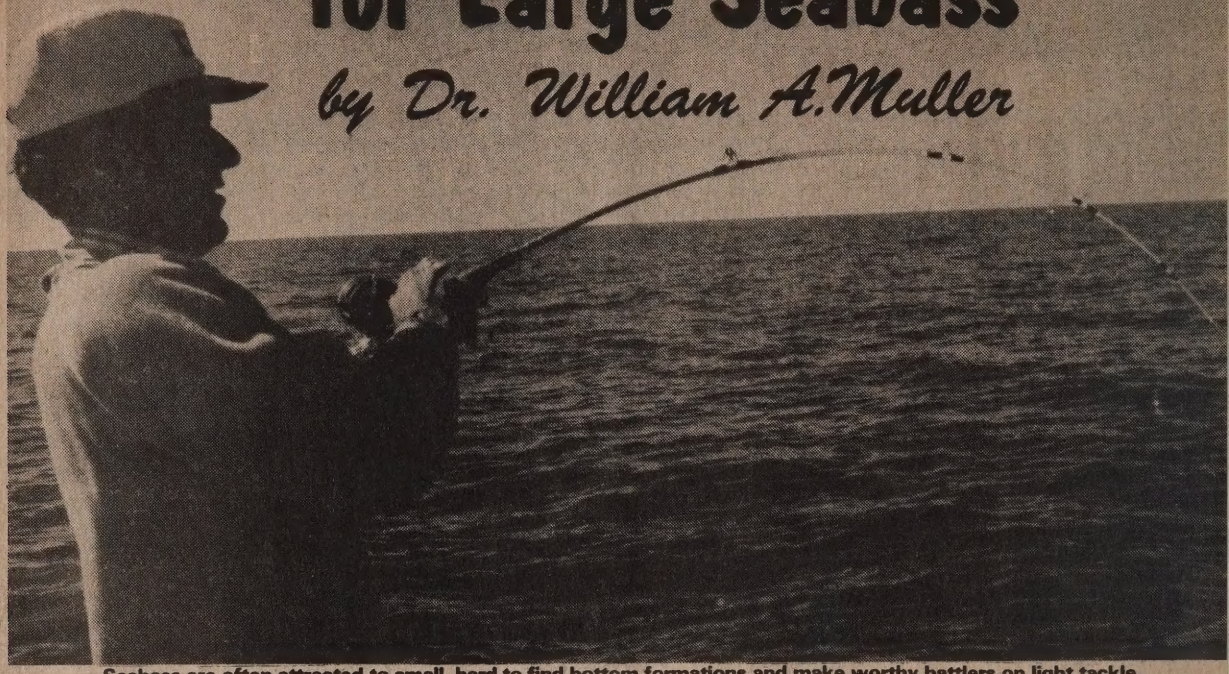
Now Provincetown is fairly easy to get to. Just take Route 95 north to the Cape Cod H ighway #6. Follow that all the way to the turnoff for the Provincetown Lighthouse at Race Point. Park in the lot under the Lighthouse and walk onto the beach. Once on the beach, go to your left. You can't miss Second Rip—there is always a bunch of fishermen there. Don't forget to make a few casts by the Lighthouse. We never did move down until after the action had stopped.

As far as finances are concerned, the whole trip cost us $15 each. For those of you who must have their beauty rest, a motel in off-season will run about $17 a night.

Good fishing!

Little Bottom Structures for Large Seabass

by Dr. William A. Muller



Seabass are often attracted to small, hard-to-find bottom formations and make worthy battlers on light tackle.

The age-old debate between the surf fisherman and the boatman: for Scott Simons and I it is a friendly controversy. For his part, he is constantly chiding me that surf fishermen never catch any fish anyway, and I'm forever trying to show him that his dull hooks won't penetrate flesh even when I intentionally try to do so.

Still, didn't he surprise me when we headed out into the Atlantic Ocean to try our skills with sea bass. Black sea bass, **Centropristes striatus**, is a relatively small fish that rarely exceeds five pounds, but which commands high respect among bottom fishermen for its hard-fighting abilities on light tackle and its delicious flavor on the table. It is hard to mis-identify a sea bass since its iridescent black color with white markings, prominent dorsal fin, and large mouth are striking.

Similar to many of the ocean's finfish species, the black sea bass cycles through periods of great abundance and striking obscurity. We have just witnessed a resurgence of the species following a period of about ten years of scarcity. Little wonder than that thousands of fishermen are again pursuing the species.

Although sea bass can be caught on a variety of hard bottoms and around wrecks, they sometimes are not caught in great numbers because they may spread out on even bottoms and may have difficulty competing for baited hooks around wrecks where other species such as cod, pollack, large porgies, and dogfish may be more aggressive.

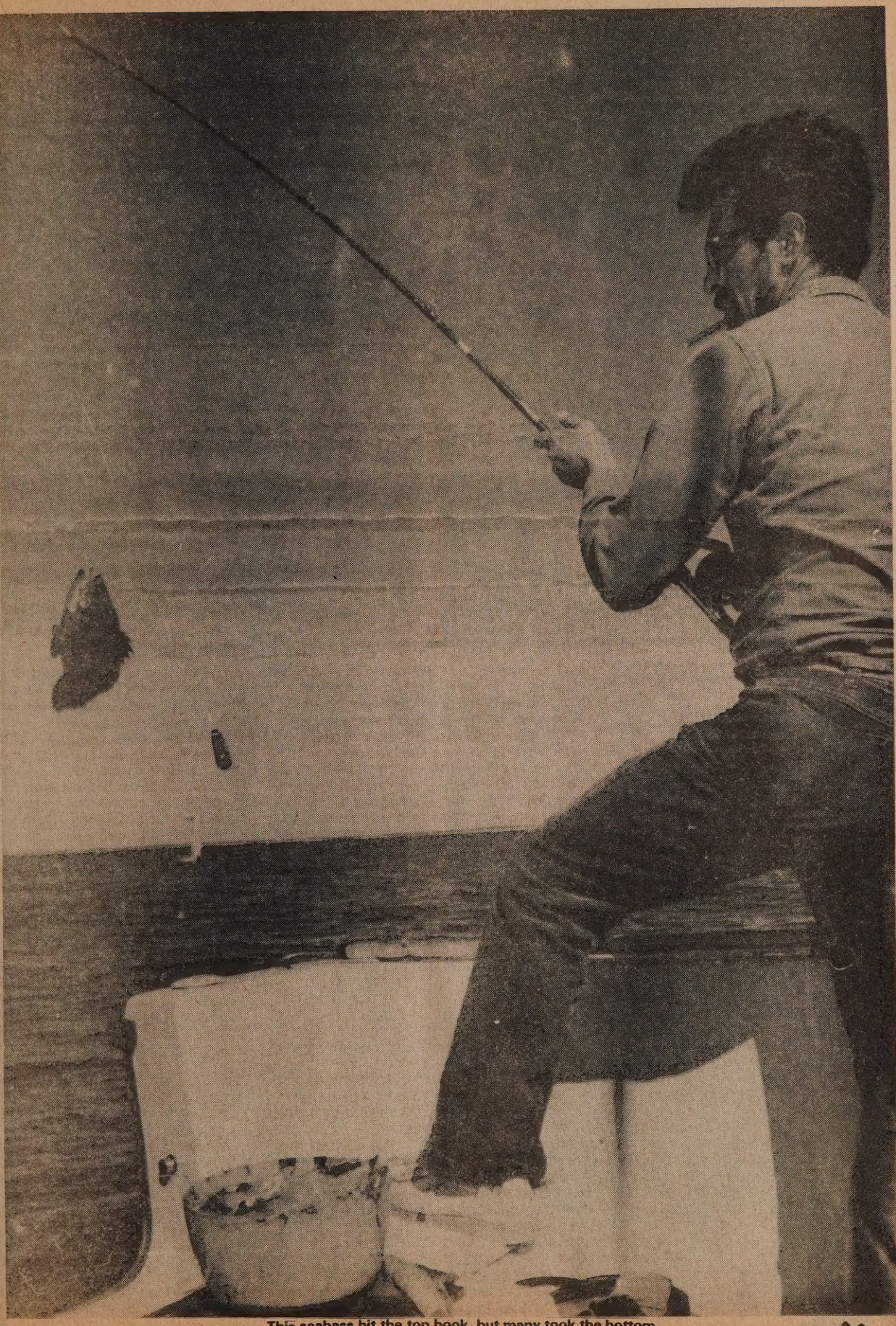
The effort to identify and zero in on a major concentration of sea bass in an area where other species would be of minor significance was the thrust of the lesson that Scott offered as we began to scour the ocean bottom with our graphing depth recorder. The first step in the process was to follow a compass heading south of the Montauk Lighthouse for about five miles. Scott watched the recorder carefully as we approached anticipated productive territory. The bottom had fallen away steadily to a depth of about ninety feet, but then started to climb back up to sixty-five or seventy feet. That was our signal that we had located the inner edge of inner Cartwright Shoal. We proceeded and the bottom again dropped off t about ninety feet. However, within short order, it becam noticeably shallower again and it was at this point tha Scott broke out the sextant.

We were cruising around the outer edge of inne Cartwright in an area sometimes called Rocky Hill "We're looking for a piece of bottom that's about seventy feet deep," Scott explained as he set up the sextant. Th sextant is an optical instrument that allows a navigator t find a precise location by utilizing the different angles o lines of sight for different land-based structures.

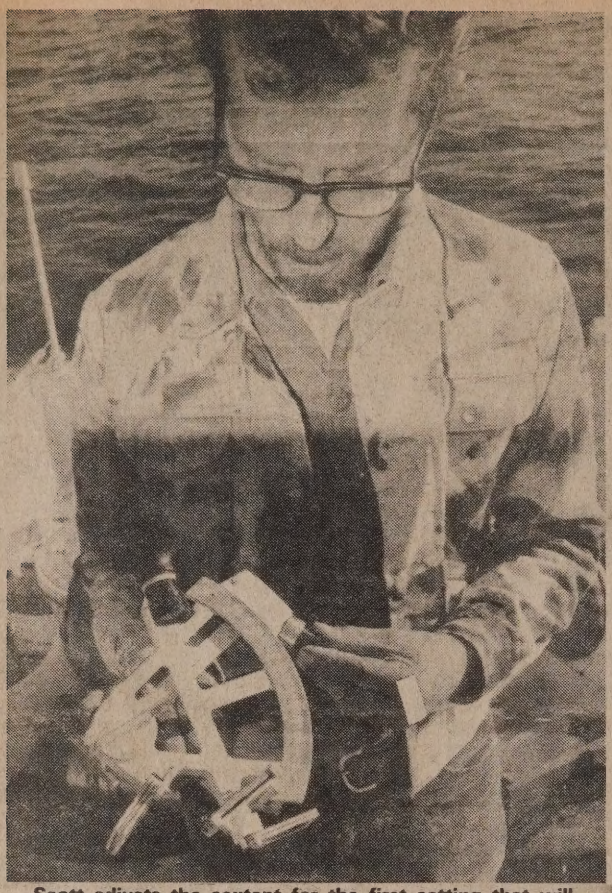
For some time Scott focused on several landmarks o the Point and we powered in a more or less straight line a the distance between the radar dome and the Lighthous inside the instrument became smaller and smaller. Whe the two images coincided, he changed the instrument' setting to a new angle. Now we steered the boat in a new direction and again we maintained our heading until th Lighthouse and office building overlapped. Meanwhile Scott watched the recorder carefully for reinforcement tha our procedures were bringing us closer and closer t productive territory. Finally, the images overlapped. Th original angle setting was once again adjusted and Scot took another reading. Inevitably, maneuvering to th second mark had thrown us slightly off the first necessitating a minor course adjustment. When the fina minor adjustments had been made, the recorde cooperated by indicating a depth of approximately seven feet.

We cruised in a tight circle for about two minutes ir order to locate the top of a hump. These relatively sma bottom projections hold a great many sea bass, but i order to work over the greatest concentration of fish th angler must try to present his baits on or very near the to of the hump. Finally, Scott was satisfied and he released marker buoy to pinpoint the exact spot. We would drif initially, but if the fish were tightly concentrated, w would anchor and chum.

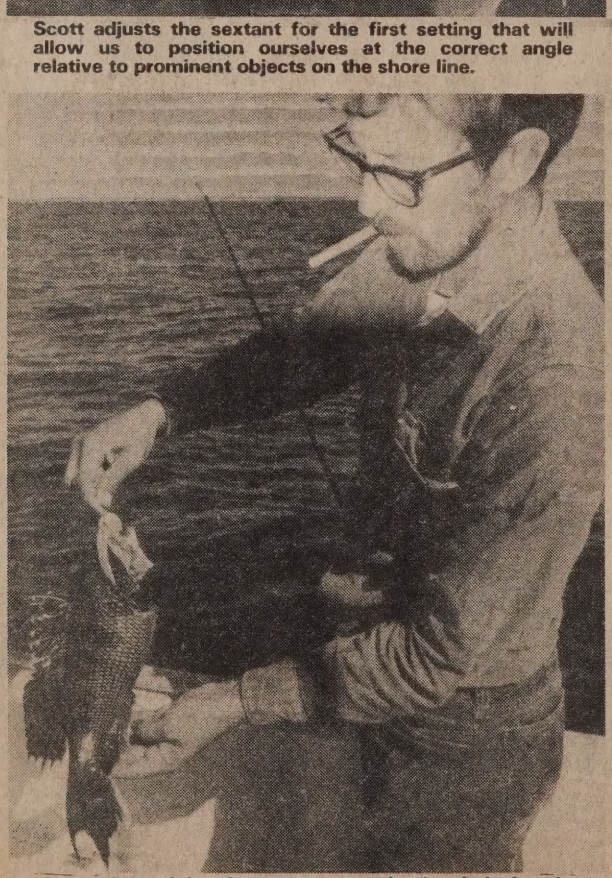
The sextant can be used to identify a new fishing spo as well as to locate a known area. While positioned over



This seabass hit the top hook, but many took the bottom.



Scott adjusts the sextant for the first setting that will allow us to position ourselves at the correct angle relative to prominent objects on the shore line.



A squid head is often a very productive bait for the larger "humpback" specimens like this one Scott caught on the formation known as *Rocky Hill*.

productive piece of bottom, take two angle readings. When you look through the viewfinder, you will see two land-based objects on a split image. One of the arms of the sextant is movable and you should slide the arm along until both images coincide. Note the angle indicated on the arm of the instrument. Repeat the first procedure using one of the original objects and another object nearby. The building, or landmark, that will be used commonly for both angles must be situated in the center, between the first and third landmarks. Thus, if the fisherman selects an object to the right of the central landmark for the first reading, he should select an object to the left for the second reading. Now you have two angles. One will give you the course heading of the bottom structure from the shore and landmark, and the second will give you its distance from the shore. If only one angle was used, it would be possible to be either too far offshore, or too close to shore by as much as a mile or so. The second angle permits precise identification because the angler has found that point where both angle lines cross. That position can only exist in one location.

The place of our intended slaughter of the sea bass is called Rocky Hill. In order to find this productive little patch, use the following angles. For the first angle, set the sextent at 42° and eleven minutes and cruise until the large office building and the Lighthouse coincide on the viewfinder. For the second angle, set the sextent at 10° and twenty-seven minutes and power up and down the compass heading until the Lighthouse and the radar dome coincide. In this particular situation, the Lighthouse if the landmark that is common for both sightings.

It may sound complicated, but it really isn't. However, it does take a few minutes to pinpoint the exact location. This time is well spent, however, since the fisherman could easily waste the entire tide searching for such an obscure piece of bottom without the help of the sextant. Of course, Loran instrumentation would also do the trick, but we have found that unless Loran instruments are top quality and quite expensive, they are not very effective or reliable. The expense of a good Loran instrument prohibits most private skippers from acquiring the instrument; whereas a good Loran will cost in the neighborhood of several thousand dollars and a very good sextant will cost about $300, it is easy to understand why the sextant may be more practical for the small craft operator with limited funds.

Now that we were on the spot, my anticipation ran high. We snelled 5/0 short-shanked hooks to stout thirty pound test leader material about twelves inches long. We used two hooks. We tied the first about six inches above the sinker and the second was fixed eighteen inches above the sinker. The leadered hooks were secured to the line with a dropper loop. Heavy sinkers are required in order to hold bottom in the swift currents and deep water. During the slack periods, we were able to use as little as five ounces; however, when the tide was running we had to use as much as ten or twelve ounces to hold bottom. Scott instructed me to tie the sinker on with a simple loose overhand knot so that if my sinker became lodged in the rock crevices below, the knot would most likely pull free, preventing the necessity of tying a completely new rig.

Sea bass will happily devour any one of a number of baits from clams to crabs, to sand eels and squid, simply because all of these dietary delights can be found on these rugged pieces of bottom structure. We elected to use squid because it is a relatively inexpensive and durable bait. However, some skippers swear by green crabs as an exceptional bait. We noticed that the sea bass we caught frequently spit up either quarter-sized crabs or small lobsters about three or four inches long. I don't think anybody is prepared for the expense of using small lobsters for bait, and anyway they are illegal.

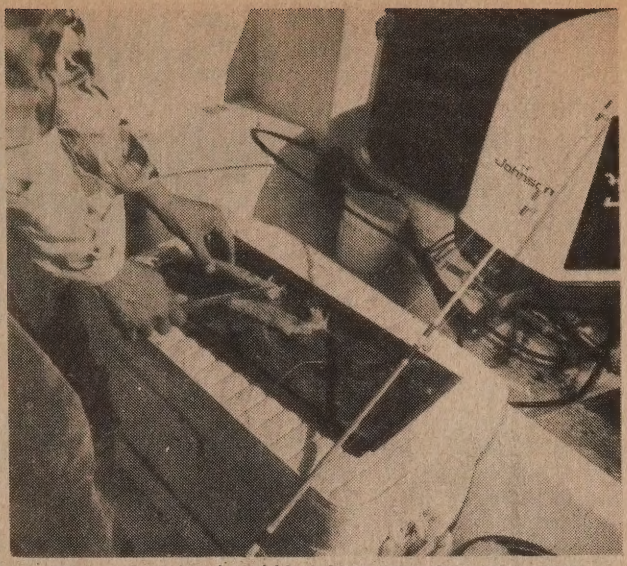
So squid it was. We lowered our rigs as the boat made its first drift over the structure. Scott was the first to hook a fish, while bergalls made quick work of my squid. Scott's fish was not of bragging proportions, but it was a solid fish of about one pound. Repeated drifts produced fish sporadically and shifting winds caused us to take a slightly different line of drift each time. Our drifts were becoming increasingly unpredictable and so Scott gave the order.

We reeled in our lines, he started the engine, and I manned the anchor. Anchoring in deep water with rugged bottom and swift tides is no easy matter. It takes a lot of anchor line to get a hold on the bottom because the anchor tends to bounce long rather than grab tight. In addition, the captain must anticipate how far back the boat will drift before the anchor is set. If the boat goes beyond the structure or if the anchor is set in front of the structure, the fisherman will be fishing on the edges of the structure and the size of the catch will be poor. We made two attempts before we were successful, and I was told that this is about average for this piece of bottom. Scott filled the heavy chum pot with clam bellies and we lowered it to the bottom, hoping that the melting juices would attract scores of big sea bass.

The strategy certainly paid off because the sea bass began flying over the gunwales in short order. Most of the fish were about a pound, but many were in the two pound range, and at least half a dozen were over three pounds. In addition, we took double-headers regularly to add the excitement of the unexpected to the fish catching.

Although the bergalls were a problem, they seemed to slack off when the chum had gathered many sea bass around the boat. The juicy clam chum also attracted other visitors and, from time to time, a sea bass would come to the surface bitten in half. A diamond jig quickly retrieved off the bottom revealed our intruders to be big bluefish. However, they were transient visitors and would promptly disappear as fast as they arrived.

The season for sea bass is a long one and good catches can be made from the end of May through September and into October. The rate at which the water cools off is the key factor in the timing of the migration. There have been times when the water temperature held in the sixties for most of October and was still a relatively comfortable upper fifties through much of November. Sea bass were therefore taken well into the fall during these seasons, but there have also been years when the water cooled quickly and by the end of September, the sea bass on the inshore grounds were few and far between.



We cut fresh local squid into long strips for seabass bait.

Sea bass have provided some of my most delightful culinary experiences, as well as some of my most relaxing summer fishing trips. Who among you would deny the joy of sea bass, oriental style, with ginger sauce and crisp fried vegetables. For simplicity in the home kitchen, the sea bass ranks high as table fare even when so simple a recipe as broiling with butter and lemon juice is the prescribed technology.

Depend on DuPont Stren®.

When you have Du Pont *Stren* monofilament on your reel, you have everything a fishing line can give you...all in one line.

Du Pont makes *Stren* durable. Tie a good knot in *Stren* and it will be as strong as the unknotted line. Cast to the striped bass out near the rocks or pilings. *Stren* will stand up to the nicks and scrapes. And still will be ready to battle a big one. Set your hook, and the controlled stretch and impact resistance of *Stren* work for you.

Du Pont makes *Stren* controllable. In any weather, *Stren* has just the right amount of limpness for easy handling and casting. And the patented glow of *Stren* lets you see your line, from dawn to dusk. So you have the precise control for casting or for keeping your line clear of others when you're trolling or fighting a fish from a boat.

Try a spool of *Stren*. Clear/Blue, bright Golden, or high contrast Orange. And make every cast count when the stripers are in.

IT'S THE ONLY LINE YOU NEED. DU PONT

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(1) STRIPED BASS, NOW IN TROUBLE FROM CHEMICAL POLLUTION AND OVERFISHING, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN GOOD SUPPLY IN THE NORTHEAST.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

(2) THE POPULAR PLASTIC WORM WAS INVENTED AND MARKETED IN THE EARLY 1950'S.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(3) THE LATEST ESTIMATE ON THE WORLD WIDE POPULATION OF THE ENDANGERED BLUE WHALE OVERHUNTED BY JAPAN AND U.S.S.R. IS ABOUT
10,000 ☐ 50,000 ☐
100,000 ☐

(4) THE HORSESHOE CRAB IS NOT A CRUSTACEAN, BUT IS AN AQUATIC MEMBER OF THE CLASS ARACHNIDA. WHO DAT ?

(5) OF THE ESTIMATED 7.5 MILLION BOATS IN THE U.S.A. MOST BOATS ARE IN THE STATE OF
NEW YORK ☐ MICHIGAN ☐
TEXAS ☐ MINNESOTA ☐

(6) NIGHTIME GILLNETTERS AFTER THE SPAWNING WEAKFISH IN LONG ISLAND'S GREAT SOUTH BAY GET THEIR BEST NETS FROM
GERMANY ☐
ITALY ☐
JAPAN ☐
U.S.A. ☐
BOTSWANA ☐
SPAIN ☐
ZAIRE ☐
NGAWA ☐

1 - FALSE. STRIPED BASS DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY FROM THE NORTHEAST FROM 1903-1936. 2 - FALSE. PLASTIC WORMS APPEARED IN THE 1894 MONTGOMERY WARD AND 1905 SEARS CATALOGUES. 3 - 10,000. 4 - SPIDERS AND SCORPIONS. 5 - MICHIGAN, TEXAS AND MINNESOTA IN THAT ORDER. 6 - THE BEST GILLNETS COME FROM JAPAN SMUGGLED IN BY AIRLINE PERSONNEL.

Metal Metamorphosis

by Dick Mermon

Examination of new fishing lures or methods usually sults in the conclusion that they are simply an updating the past—in one way or another. Time often shrouds an's mentality with forgetfulness. Hence, each eneration of anglers feel they have personally found the cret to successful fishing in the area. So be it with metal res, which are the "**IN**" artificials of today. These, too, e not really contemporary lures, but unadorned classics th up-to-date cosmetics and intelligent applications.

One of the many tactics which Mother Nature nploys, preventing man from completely destroying ecies of her waters is, cycles. She is constantly vamping her bait fish routine, from one genre to nother. By the time man figures the pattern of a edominant species, a new cycle is completed with a de-in, fade-out procedure. Thus, an old method or lure is born by a handful of anglers who absorbed techniques om previous experienced instructors. In turn, these odern fishermen add new twists by trial-and-error uring the activity, which is called "doing your omework."

Imitative devices representing a sand eel have been in istence for a considerable number of years. Two years go there was only a minute amount of anglers nowledgeable enough to realize that Nature was up to her d tricks and employed a forgotten lure. Other fishermen mply gazed with envy and disbelief, losing out in the id. Experimentation is the advancement in productivity.

In 1938, Bridgeport Silverware Company, Bridgeport, onnecticut (Bead Chain Tackle Co.), fashioned in block n, a metal sand eel jig with a fixed hook protruding from e rear. Rounded on the bottom, flat on the top, the metal re's luster was obtained by rubbing it with sand, or raping with a knife. In by-gone days—like the Ford utomobiles of one color—a lure could be had in any color long as it was silver. A dull sheen was sufficient to mpt fish into striking. What did affect the total catch was e lure's motion in water, as it does today.

Around 1940, Bridgeport introduced the first round pe sand eel jig with a fixed hook and immediately it ecame a favorite along the Cape Cod Canal. Slowly this n jig declined in popularity with the disappearnce of sand els and a new bait entered the scene. Whatever edominant bait fish species emerged, the diamond jig re duplicated it. In the beginning, these jigs were olded in block tin and a single, stationary hook; then a vinging treble hook took its place when fish were found use the lure to their advantage. A large fish would anipulate the stationary-hooked lure in such a way so as twist it from its mouth.

After World War II, nickel chrome became very opular with lure producers and lead prices being lower an tin, manufacturing techniques switched. Not only did ad cost less, but it also had more weight per size in water an tin, meaning heavier lures could be smaller in mension, less expensive to produce and a constant, ighter shine to catch more fishermen, as well as fish. So e chromed lead, diamond-shaped jig replaced the sand el and reigned high in the metal lure market since its rth, up to the past year.

Suddenly, stainless steel lures surfaced, which were mediately accepted by anglers because of their illiance and strength. One feature of this metal is lost when applied in swift current as a lure and that is, water displacement. Lead is still heavier in volume weight per square inch over stainless steel and block tin. Therefore, stainless is only as good as it looks and in quiet-type water.

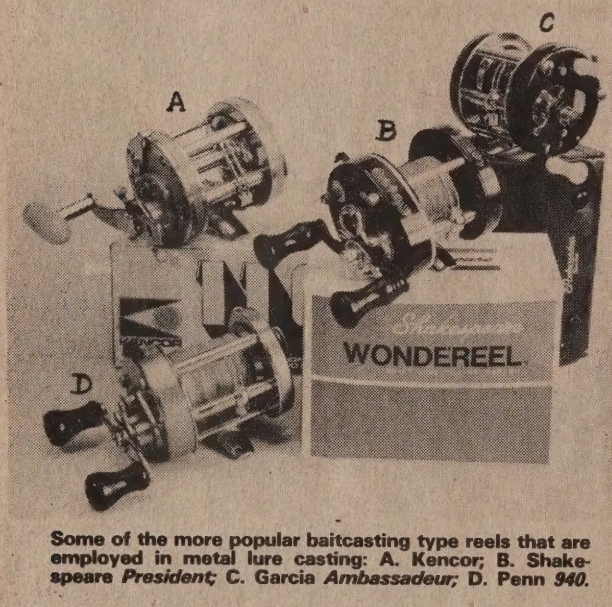
Captain Frank Braddick of the *Hurry Up* unhooks one bluefish while Bob Phillips of the *Shakespeare Co.* flexes his muscles on an Ugly Stik and a running bluefish.

With the vast amount of sand eels appearing in the northeastern Atlantic waters, diamond jigs became the hottest metal lure of all times. Plastic, wood, and soft latex took a back seat in the saltwater market. Finally, average Joe and Joan Doe angler realized they were able to catch fighting fish down deep with enjoyment, rather than laboring over wire lines and multiple tubes.

More imaginative lure designers wanted something better than a shiny diamond jig, and created a little more realistic attractor by sliding a rubber tube over the lead body. This produced cosmetic color of desired hues which sand eels have, depending upon light penetration, color of water and body activity. To give the attracting artificial added enticement, a second smaller tinted plastic tubing was placed onto the hook's shank. When in its retrieve pattern, the tail tube of this lure spins and vibrates.

Active predators in search of sand eel prey constantly scour the bottom, creating a problem at times for fishermen. Two elements become apparent when metal

This photo shows many imitations of the sand eel made from tin, lead and hard plastic from the 1930's to the 1970's, some still in use by the author and catching fish.



Some of the more popular baitcasting type reels that are employed in metal lure casting: A. Kencor; B. Shakespeare *President;* C. Garcia *Ambassadeur;* D. Penn *940.*

lures are used: water depth and current. Most anglers feel the heavier the lure, the stronger the line carrying it must be. This is not so. Lighter (in pound test) lines have less water resistance than heavier because of diameter thickness. If a tidal movement is swift, line and water pressure against one another is great, no matter how much the lure weighs. Everything must be taken into consideration when vertical fishing begins. The lure once dropped overboard should be permitted an instant, rapid descent.

Lighter lines allow a metal artificial almost straight downward drop, or thereabouts. Twenty pound test line seems to be the most widely used in this rejuvenated system. Beware of the fact that straight monofilament is not the ultimate of vertical lure fishing because it does absorb some water and stretches a good deal. There is no perfect, all-around monofilament line available. Each manufacturer of lines must give up something to get other properties. Some lines have limpness; others are stiffer or stronger, and some are super thin but have little abrasion resistance. Yet mono has little restriction in water when compared with braided Dacron or nylon. In days of old, Irish Linen was only available until the synthetics pushed their way onto the market. Today, plastics play a tremendous role in our lives and so mono, with its good and bad, seems to be best suited for this type fishing.

Several braided monofilaments have materialized on today's fishing market. Braid King Line Company is said to have a new dimension in fishing line called "Web." It is said their line is thinner than plain mono and has a minimum of stretch, with excellent knot strength. Shakespeare's addition to this field is in its #5000 series, white braided mono line with good abrasion resistance. Cortland Line Company also offers to the angler a braided monofilament called "Polyspin" of thin diameter with little water resistance.

As pound test goes up in weight, so does the diameter of any line thickness, adding water resistance. Occasionally, it becomes necessary to advance into heavier tackle. In such laden equipment, the lure will strike bottom but is quickly lifted with a current. At this time, a metal lure must do its job instantly and correctly, or be rapidly retrieved and once again, bounced on bottom. The dilemma in adding lure weight comes with this resistance, unless there is little water motion to overcome.

Knowledgeable, or thinking fishermen who relied on quantity and quality of fish to either survive, or subsidize, their income, toyed with several old lures of metal during the past season. They found diamond-shaped lures reflected light like a mirror does when it shimmers when vibrated back and forth. This quick off-and-on flash attracted fish into striking at the lure, but there were periods when water current prevented the attractor from its proper descent and retrieve. Adding plastic tubing over a hook improved the action, but also created more drag. Since a round, or oval object has less surface resistance than a square one, a prototype sand eel jig was molded into a long thin lead core, and it was found it had little counteraction in water. When more weight was required, the lure was elongated and made thicker in molding. Rounded metal lures have less surface pressure in water than flat objects; hence, the rebirth of the legendary sand eel metal lure.

Tri-Fin Whiptail Company has what I consider a real beauty of an imitation sand eel. Cylindrical-shaped, formed head, gills, eyes, curvature of body, and a forked tail of tubing to add seductive flutter when retrieved. Like the real thing, it imitates color (from silver to hot pink) when fishing in discolored water.

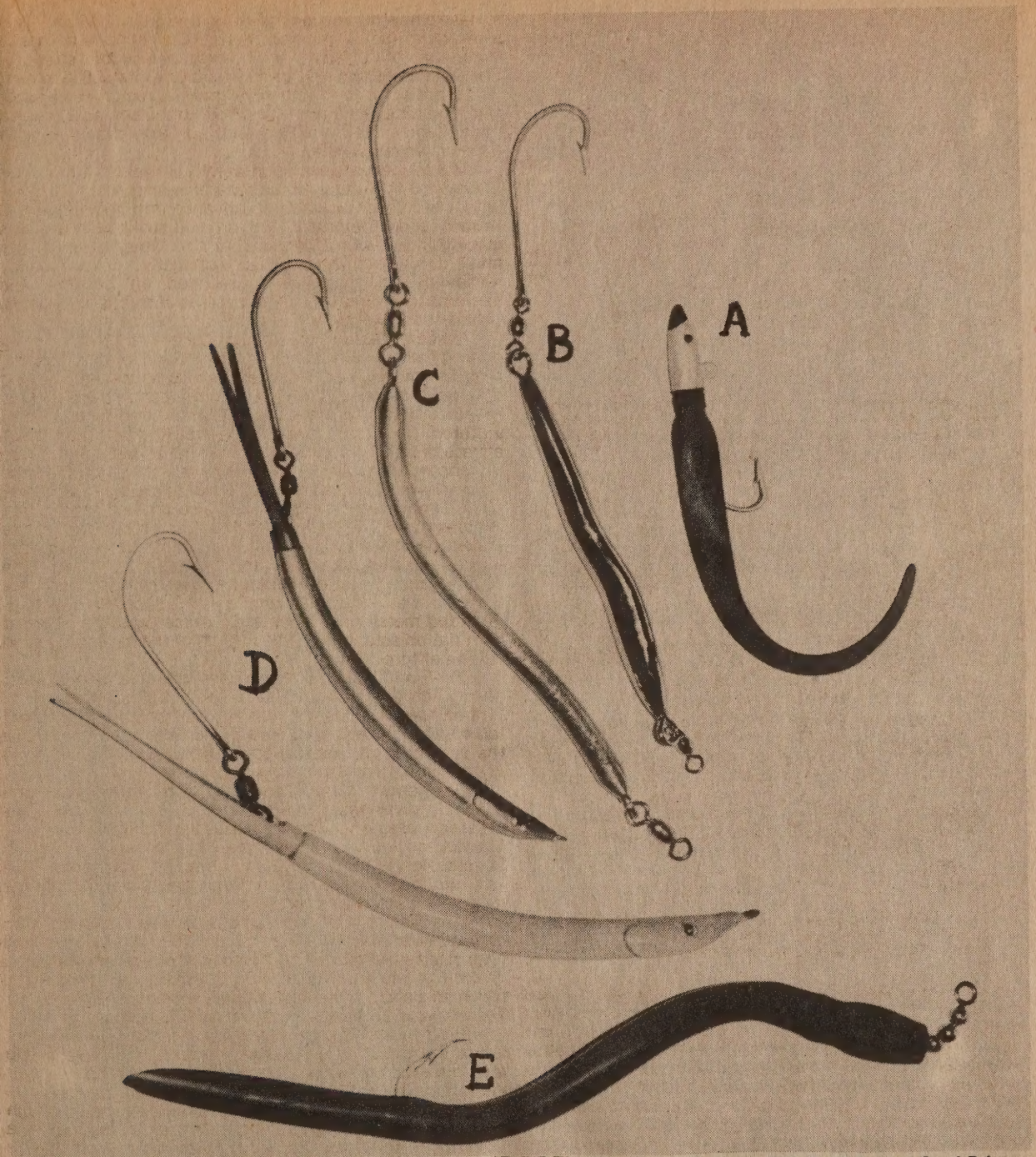
Bridgeport Lure Company, has redesigned the original silver-sided sand eel jig by removing the stationary single hook and replaced it with a swiveled one. The luster is of high chrome and has a constant shine. Its body design is tubular with a slight "S" formation. The lure without the stationary hook revolves slightly as though it were swimming.

Ava Tackle Company also has taken a giant step forward with its sand eel attractor. The long slender lead-tube carries a single swinging hook which resembles a tail in motion when retrieved. By its design in shape, the chromed pencil diameter lure twists when it is retrieved. This reflects light rays constantly on its upward path.

Bingle Lure Company has its own version of the bait fish at hand, but in a different concept. The head of the lure is similar to that of a leadhead jig, or bucktail, but its tail section is what creates action. Made from a single slice of thin stretchable material, the tail in its hook design vibrates infinitely when being retrieved or stemming a tidal rip. Bingle's three other sand eel imitations are the Banana, Lancer, and Dandy Lure.

One thing which all fishermen must take into consideration: lures are merely lures, and only as productive as the action given to them by an angler at the other end of the stick. Sand eels are called "sand eels" because of where they seek protection—in soft bottom or sand. Their swimming action is not just a rapid upward motion. When spooked from the bottom, they explode towards the surface instantaneously to a certain point, then stop suddenly and change to a slower pace. It is as though they have reached a safe level and begin faltering for a new direction.

This was the motion given to metal lures by several anglers, not solely a fast wind-up, and then down again. Fish react to definite bait fish swimming motions. Just dropping a metal lure to bottom and then jerking it up and down may take a few fish, but bait does not usually swim in that fashion. The most productive retrieve method is to permit the lure a bottom touchdown instantly, then quickly



The new version of the sand eel metal lures from several manufacturers: A. Bingle *Dandy Tail;* B. Bridgeport *Sand Eel Jig;* C. Ava Tackle Co. *DeMaio Jig;* D. Tri-Fin hand-painted *Sand Eel;* E. Ava leadhead *Banana Tube.*

reel as fast as possible upwards five turns of the handle, then slow down for five more. Most often a strike occurs at this slow point, or the lure's motion changeover period.

Since sand eels leave their bottom sanctuary hastily, a lure must resemble it in transition. Therefore, speedy retrieve reels help administer a lure's action upwards. Light tackle enthusiasts lean towards bait casting styled reels with their built-in high gear ratio and solid mechanics. Reels like Shakespeare's 1980 and 1984; Garcia's Ambassadeur 5000 and 6000 series; Daiwa's Millionare; Quick's 700 and 800 series; Olympic 7700 and Ryobi 40 are all at least 4:1 gear ratio. Penn's Gold 900 series and Kencor's 110M level-wind can also be included, but the ratio of gears is much lower and should be changed. These mini-powerhouses are designed for pleasureable fishing with line no heavier than twenty pound test. At a single glance, line capacity may seem inadequate. Still, most of these reels hold over 150 yards of twenty pound test monofilament, or braided mono and are sufficient to engage a large variety of fish.

Should there be any question or doubt about using freshwater bait casting equipment in saltwater, several larger reels with high gear ratios are also available, such as Penn's Jigmaster, Garcia's 7000, Shakespeare's 1960 and 1961 and Kencor's 830MH. These mighty-macks are designed with substantial line capacity from twenty to forty pound test.

Practially any rod will fit the bill in vertical metal lure angling, but new models have been created to enhance an angler's satisfaction as balanced equipment. In days back, there was no choice but to either employ a broomstick or a handline. It was unheard of to apply the so-called "sweet water" rods in saltwater for such giant gamesters. Only

(Continued on page 13.)

JERKS, LEAD HEAD JIGS & SPRINGTIME WEAKFISH

by Dr. Einar Grell

Fishing Sandy Areas Upon and In The Flats.

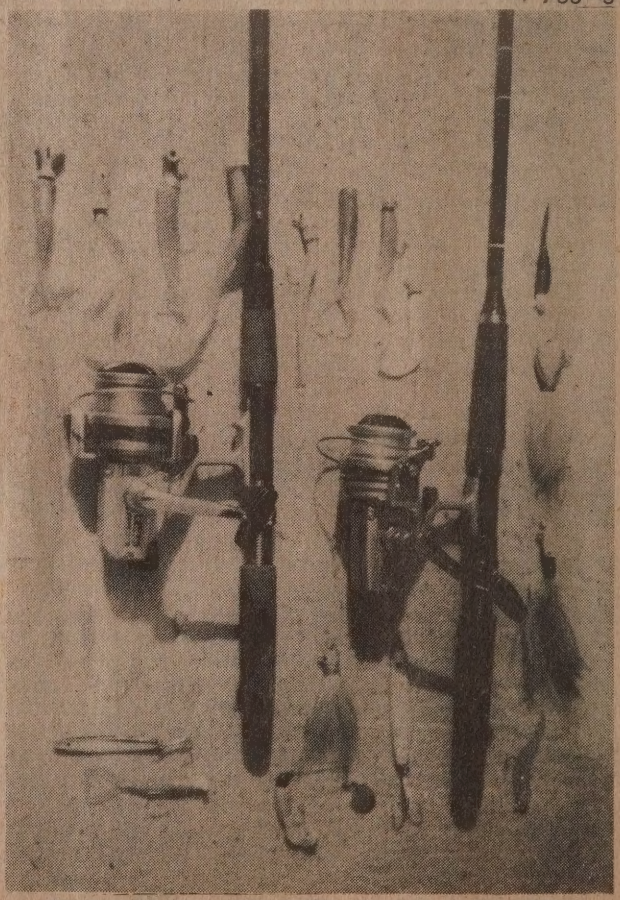
Whereas most of the Great South Bay bottom area is covered by eelgrass (Sostera marina) which grass shrimp and weakfish love, it will be apparent in your drifts across these underwater pastures that because of the immensity of the grass present that weakfish will be spread out widely in these areas. Casting at random into this grass will produce fish, but not with the frequency of catch which will take place when you come across clear sand patches in the grass. When you come upon these clear sandy areas, drop your anchor and prepare to begin casting your bright colored lead-headed shrimps and bucktails. Weakfish love to congregate around these sand patches. It is here that Bagley Salty Dog Shrimp (white heads with shrimp pink tails; red heads with pink tails; Screw Tail Shrimp; plastic grubs; Purty Bugs; spinner bugs and Hammertails) really come into play. The idea here in casting is to place your jig into the sandy spot and with a whippy bottom-bumping retrieve cause your jig to kick up puffs of sand on each twitch and whip of the rod tip. These little puffs and kicks of sand drive weakfish crazy—possibly an invasion of their breeding ground or part time residence. If there are little sprigs of eel grass in these sand patches which tend to foul your jig, lift your jig slowly off the bottom to clear the grass. There are many of these sandy patches out in the Bay "flats" which harbor many tiderunners.

Seeking out these areas is great adventure and offers fantastic fishing. On the other side of the coin, if you are drifting across a large sandy area which characterizes many tidal sluiceways or drains, don't neglect to fish those little grassy patches which appear as underwater cases. Many times these patches are loaded with a jungle of grass shrimp and several large weakfish who have claimed the spot as their own Burger King or McDonald's. Cast to these areas from an anchored position, since a fast drift at best will offer you only one or two casts.

"Dead" Leading Jig Technique for Fishing Mouths of Tidal Drains, and Drains.

If you philosophy for catching weaks is "I will catch them at the mouths of fast-moving drains just before they exit into major navigational channels," then you should master the "dead" leading jig technique which involves nothing more than making a cast across the tideway and allowing your jig to be turned around by the fast-moving current until it is directly down-tide and behind you facing into the fast-moving current. Actually, what you are doing here is allowing the current to roll and skeg your jig around in a large arc until it comes around behind you facing into the current. Many times before you begin your slow retrieve (after jig has come around to your rear) with a sharp, darting motion, you will catch fish. The advantage of this technique on the incoming tide is that a lure cast to a bank, followed by a natural sweep-around motion (no jigging here) will entice fish on the banks to chase your jig into deeper water. Fish will hit this natural rolling motion of the jig. Begin your slow retrieve once the jig has come around and stopped rolling. Strikes experienced during the roll-around are hard to detect at best, but when they occur with any intensity, the fish is usually hooked good.

In fishing deep channels during the incoming tide, do not neglect to use the wide variety of lead-headed worms (plastic) that are available. Bagley spring tails; magnum worms, Eager Beavers, Crawlbottoms, flat-tailed Mollys, Indian Scent worms and Boone Bait Co. worms, are a few that you might try. I have taken many tiderunners with six to ten inch red, black and grape worms which I have substituted for shrimp tails. These worms can be placed on 5/16ths and one ounce shrimp heads. The trick in using plastic worms for weakfish is to retrieve them as slowly as possible—like autos moving on the Southern State Parkway in beach traffic to Jones Beach on a hot July Sunday afternoon. Lead jigging with plastic worms is a very tricky technique at best for the simple reason that the worm is long and it takes the sea trout a little time before he puts it into his mouth—like a person eating six to ten-inch-long spaghetti. Nibbles do not mean strike. Weaks enjoy tasting and testing your worm as they slowly ease up on it. When you feel little tugs, you can stop your retrieve and give them a chance to swallow. You can also slow down your retrieve as you feel the tugging action. This usually infuriates "weakie" and induces him into making the fatal swallow which you feel as a solid hit. If you are an impulsive and nervous fisherman, jigging



Some of the light tackle outfits and many of the artificial lures used by Doc Grell in Great South Bay for weaks.

worms probably won't be your cup of tea. If you think that you have patience, using plastic worms on lead jigs can produce large fish. All fishermen should give this technique a try. Remember that today you can scent your lures and if you have diet and weight conscious weakfish in the area, low calorie scented plastic worms (Indian Scent worms) might just do the trick. Weakfish Walter, my fishing friend, says "plastic scented worms catch the long, slender sexy females." Walter has put away his share of tiderunners.

If I had my one choice of lead-headed jig for all types of Great South Bay fishing (weaks, stripers, fluke and blues), I would in all honesty have to say that the choice would be that of the half-ounce to one ounce Smilin Bill white bucktail. However, I am talking about weakfish jigging where plastic shrimp jigs have it all over the bucktail for maximum catching ability.

Rods and Reels Recommended.

For rods, I employ either a very light four ounce bait casting rod (Daiwa #4031, six feet long) or a Berkeley seven foot Parametric (P30-7) which handles lures up to one ounce. Both of these rods have very sensitive and extremely whippy tips ideally suited for casting and jigging lead-headed jigs in the one-eighth to three-quarter ounce weight class. One ounce lure weights represent the maximum weight. These rods are balanced throughout and ideally suited for light tackle fishing with six pound test green Tournament Ande line which I spool onto Daiwa 1500C and Daiwa 2500C reels which I have found to hold up well over the years.

If you are not interested in going the six pound test line route, which will cost you in loss of jigs, you can always spool onto your reels eight, ten or twelve pound test line which will save you money in lures, but will cut down on your casting ability from an anchored or drifting boat. I have always loved a long casting range of my lures and six pound test line allows for this advantage. Beginners would do well with twelve pound test line until they have mastered the wild forward and reverse runs of tiderunners upon the flats.

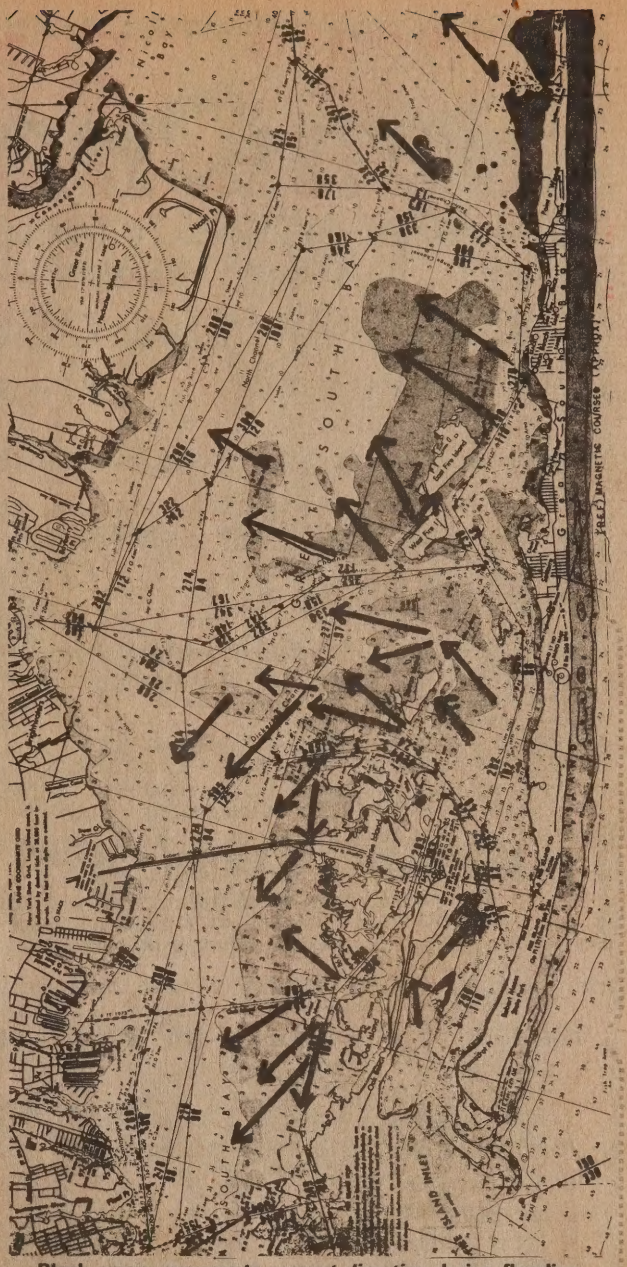
Weather.

When the wind is out of the east or southeast, the Bay is churning and the fishing is the least or poor at best. When the wind is out of the northwest, west, southwest or south, the fishing is always the best. If you don't believe me, try fishing with any kind of an east wind, make your own observations, and then call me. Try it.

Currents and Tides.

If you are a beginner, I would recommend that you purchase some current charts of the area and keep some simple oceanographic data. A simple tide clock is a wise investment. On this clock, you can mark your times for high water in the bay to coincide with fishing your favorite hotspots. Current flow varies for different parts of the bay, so keep a record of such. It is important to your fishing. You do not want to be fishing on the flats when the tide is ebbing, and conversely, you do not wish to be fishing major navigational channels during the flood when you belong on the flat in drains and tidal mud holes. Knowing where you are in the time of the tides cannot be over-emphasized. Even a difference of one hour into the flood tide can make the difference between few fish and many fish in certain areas. I have spots up in the flats where within one hour of the top of the flood I can load up on weakfish. Two hours before the top of the flood will produce nothing.

In conclusion, don't forget to bring your net. Purchase or make some lead-headed jigs with a variety of plastic tails, hairy bucktails and give worming for weaks a chance. Get away from the boat traffic, drift the drains and flats looking for the recommended conditions so necessary for catching weaks. Experiment with various colored tails. Look for the muddy tidal pools, the clear areas and the eel grass underwater islands. A new world awaits you and you will be rewarded by catching these beautiful, hard-hitting sea trout known as Cynoscion regalis—our beloved northern weakfish. Sock it to them with lead-headed jigs. Weakfish can't resist lead with plastic and hairy tails in the spring and early summer. Best of luck.



Black arrow represents *current direction* during flooding tide and drains across Great South Bay's Babylon and Bay Shore "flats." Hydraulic head of the bay is off Heckscher State Park.

Doc Grell's 13½ ft. *Boton Whaler* with a 25 h.p. Evinrude that he uses for fishing the flats of Great South Bay.

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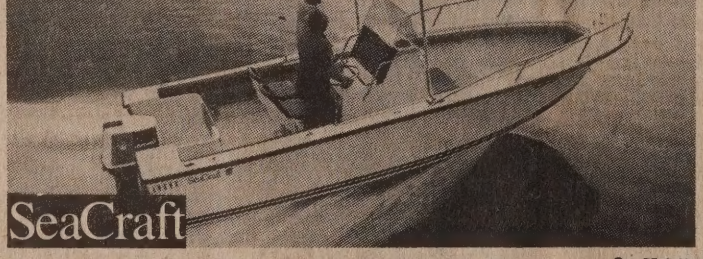

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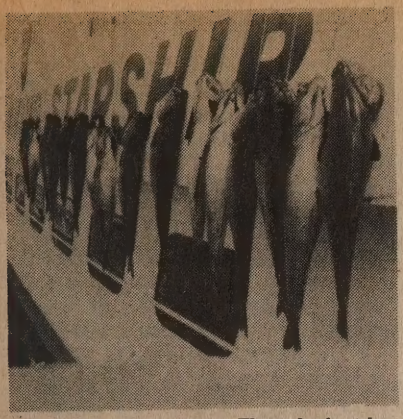
MONTAUK ★ BEST BET ★ POLLACK

After keeping everyone on pins and needles for several weeks now, the pollack finally showed up in force southeast of Block Island and the spring run of fish is definitely on. After a few excellent catches last weekend, the weather prevented the boats from getting another shot at the fish until Thursday. The charter boats and open boats found nice schools of pollack off Block Island and did a nice massacre job on them. Some excellent catches were also made on Friday, but catches were down on both Saturday and Sunday as a result of the heavy boat traffic and poor fishing conditions.

Capt. Fred Bird of the new **Flying Cloud** called to say that on Thursday, he stayed late in the area he was fishing southeast of Block Island and his hunch paid off when a big school of pollack showed up. Forty giant pollack in the 25 to 30 lb. class were taken on jigs and tubes, with only one fish going for the bait. The Captain said that the school of pollack showed as a solid black reading on his graph recorder that was 16 feet high. Before the pollack showed up, the anglers aboard loaded up on some nice cod and a mess of "baseball bat" size whiting. Fred said that he expected the run to last a good two to three weeks.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** did a number on the fish off Block Island on Thursday, for a New Jersey party of anglers headed by Bill Dahl. Using the diamond jig and tube lures, 20 pollack over 20 lbs. were bagged along with 35 codfish. A lot of whiting were also taken. The action on Friday was a little slower, and Saturday's fishing was way down because there were so many boats trying to fish the area they were spooking

These three "hangers" on the *Marlin IV* give you an idea of the size of the fish being taken on jigs: a 26 lb. pollack, a 35-lb. cod, and a 31-lb. pollack.



The "hangers" from Thursday's trip for the *Viking Starship*—cod and pollack in the 25 to 35 lb. class. All of the fish were taken on jigs south of Block Island, and the boat returned to port early with "too many fish to count!"

the fish. On Sunday, the Captain chose to stay close to home because of the weather and took over 30 flounder in the 1½ to 2 lb. range along with some blackfish.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to tell us that starting this Saturday he will be going for the jumbo sea bass at the local grounds. The commercial men have started to get some nice fish and by the weekend, the run should be in full swing.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Starship** reported that the pollack finally showed up in force off Block Island and the fishing on Thursday and Friday was absolutely fantastic, comparable to the great run of fish we had last year in the area. The fish are hitting the diamond jig and tubes again and on Thursday, the boat came in with 18 hangers, and on Friday, the rail was full with over 30 hangers. Saturday's fishing was only fair and Sunday's fishing was poor, probably due to the boat traffic and nasty weather Sunday morning. The pool was taken on Saturday by Matthew Viol of the Bronx, with a 55 lb. cod that yielded $250.

Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** didn't make the run to Block Island on Friday, but managed to do a real number on the fish closer to home at the Submarine Buoy. The three-man charter swung 92 cod into the boat, ranging from 5 to 15 lbs. If that wasn't enough, they stopped for a short time to do a little flounder fishing on the way back to the inlet and took 26 flounder up to 3 lbs.

Henry Columbe of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that Capt. Ronnie Goldberg on the Barbar Jack found the cod and pollack south of Block Island on Saturday. He jigged 40 pollack up to 38 lbs., and about 30 cod. Capt. John Mangano of the charter boat **Daybreak** took 30 cod on Friday, and on Sunday, he scored with 20 cod and 15 big flounder. On Saturday, the "Hi-Lee" covered the cockpit deck with 102 flounder that were caught close to the harbor in The Secret Flounder Hole.

Capt. Gary Kiefer of the charterboat **Barracuda** said that Doc Grell was at the helm on Saturday and found 21 codfish up to 15 lbs., for the charter. Fishing was done around the Submarine Buoy and the

Three fishermen accounted for 38 cod, one 3½ lb. flounder and a seabass aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat *Vivienne* fishing near Montauk last week.

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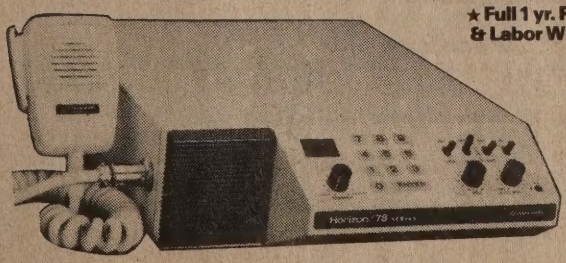
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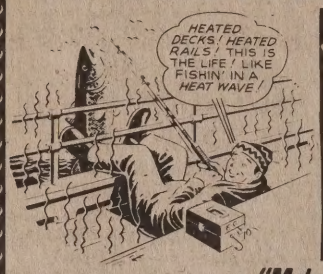

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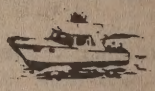

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Southwest Ledge and all of the fish were taken on bait. The Captain said that the charterboat **Ebb Tide** was one of the few boats that did a good job on the fish Sunday, when Capt. John Sweetman managed to bail 60 nice codfish for his charter.

Charter boat **Free Spirit** called to say that on Thursday and Friday he fished flounder at Rocky Point and ended up with a good catch, with mussels and worm on the hook.

The **Marlin IV** reports that Thursday, Friday and Saturday they fished Block Island, decking 84 pollack; average size fish running 25 to 30 lbs., on both jigs and on bait. Cod, whiting and mackerel were also caught on these trips. The weekend saw catches slow down a little, but loads of whiting were still bailed.

Charter Boat **Eljon** called to tell us that Dave Minasian of Sayville on Saturday bagged a 4½ lb. flounder, which is quite a flounder. The Eljon is now sailing from West Lake Fishing Lodge.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station called to say good fishing was had in both Shinnecock and Peconic Bays this week. On Thursday, Richard Long, Pete Valkavich of Long Island, and Ed Chesho of Syracuse, took 43 weakfish, with 10 fish over 8 lbs. Also on Thursday, Jeff Woods of Northport and Dick Woods of New Hyde Park caught 4 weakfish off Robin's Island in the morning, weighing up to 10 lbs., and 98 flounders up to 2½ lbs., in Shinnecock in the afternoon.

Fluke fishing started in front of Corr's Fishing Station, with a 5½ lbr. being the largest fish this week. Look for good weak and fluke activity this week.

Ricky Cimins, Dennis Wagner and Daniel Markunas with the 110 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. and the 13 eels they caught fishing northeast of buoy 42 before they ran out of bait. *Photo courtesy of L&M Marine, Moriches*

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CAPT. LARRY RODRIGUEZ CAPT. JIM PALUMBO

Pat Ambrico and his cousin Simone of Bethpage with the 36 flounder they caught with bloodworms and mussel chum fishing NNE of Buoy 42 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of *Skidmores Fishing Station.*

MORICHES BAY

RUM 'N COKE

—MORICHES INLET—

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—SHARK CHARTERS—

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MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait & Tackle tells us that Harry Nelson and daughters, Lynn and Kim, fished off the Coast Guard Station in East Moriches and took 38 keeper flounder on bloodworms and red-dyed clam on Saturday. Jim Green and Wendell McCoullough of North Patchogue on Saturday caught 47 flounder on bloodworms, with mussel and clam chum between buoys 42 and 43 in Moriches Bay. On Saturday, George Frey trolled umbrellas off Westhampton in 30 ft. of water for a total of 9 blues between 3 and 4 lbs. Bill, Stan, and John hit the Peconics on Saturday and fishing off Cow's Neck boated 13 weaks up to 8 lb. 10 oz., on red split tails. On Sunday, 4 weakfish, one hitting 11 lbs., ½ oz., was caught by Bill of East Moriches Bait and Tackle and he is now leading in the Great Gun Anglers' Weakfishing Derby.

Silly Lily Fishing Station reported good flounder fishing this past Saturday and Sunday. The fish were all caught between buoy 36 and 39 on the south side of the channel. A couple of fluke were also picked up by private boats.

Jack Stilgenbauer and Bill Berger with 70 flounder to 2 lbs. they caught fishing northeast of buoy 42. *Photo courtesy of Skidmore's.*

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

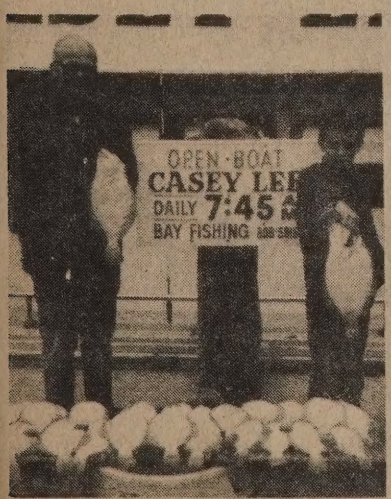
MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz Fishing Station reports very good weakfishing this past week at Buoy 12 and at the Smith Point Bridge on salty dogs, best on the first two hours of incoming. Jeff Maragiolia of Patchogue had the largest, a 10 lb. 2 oz. tiderunner, taken at Buoy 12 on a pink Salty Dog. Old-time angler John the Early Bird bagged a 9 lb. 4 oz. weak at the same place on a Dog and squid. Some fluke between buoys 19 and 26 on live killies, fish 3 to 4 lbs. Good flounder action between the bridge and buoy 10 on blood and sand worms and mussel chum. Harbor blues from 2 to 6 lbs., have been taken between the bridge and buoy 17 on surge tubes and poppers. Outside, whiting, ling and cod in 75-80 ft. of water on skimmers and on diamond jigs. Mackerel have slowed and are probably gone by now. They've heard of some large weaks and blues on the outside in 40-50 ft. of water off Smith Point Pavillion.

Charter boat **Sea Mist** on Sunday had blues from 2 to 5 lbs., and weaks from 5 to 9 lbs., at buoy 12 on jigged Salty Dogs and diamond jigs.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** says substantial catches of weaks and blues at Ocean Beach, Heckscher and the Connequot River. Mike Gardiner and Dave Crocco working Salty Dogs and squid took 8 weakfish up to 10 lbs., four blues - 3-5 lbs., 2 fluke, 3 blackfish and a sea bass—all on the Dog and squid. Carl Rennhack and Bob Snyder took a 9 lb. weak fishing Ocean Beach with Salty Dog and squid. Kathy Simeone had an 8½ lb. weak at Ocean Beach, her first fish ever. These catches were all over the weekend.



Herb Coope and son Gerard Coope with the 25 flounder and two fluke they caught fishing aboard the *Casey Lee* out of Bay Shore.

The Oakley Brothers had 50 weakfish at the Connequot River late Saturday and early Sunday, fishing off Heckscher and the Connequote River with artificial shrimp. Almost all of the rental skiffs came in with a fluke or two and a couple of flatfish, all taken on either squid or dogs with squid.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports that on Sunday, Ed Mossman and Jim Horne of New York caught 27 weakfish fishing between buoys 3 and 4 off Heckscher State Park. The fish were all from 8 to 10 lbs.

Seven blues of good size were caught off Cherry Grove by Mike Levke, Dick Morrow and Dick Scanlon, all of Elmont.

Some fluke and flounders were also taken. With the weather and the water warming up, things should be picking up. Pink Salty Dogs with squid and white Mr. Twister are taking weakfish. Bluefish are hitting everything.

BAY SHORE

The Casey Lee tells us fluking has been best in West Channel, Snake Hill Channel and at the Moses Bridge on sand eels and squid. Killies are working on occasion as well. Catches of a couple per man on some days and from 4 10 on other days are what's coming down. Weaks are mostly big, but catches have been averaging a fish per man on week nights and a half a fish per man on weekends, according to Capt. Neil.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports weaks at Ocean Beach, buoy 13 and 13A on the flood, with jelly worms in red or purple working best and Carl says that rigged on his special leadhead, they are really effective. Sand worms are working on the weakfish at Heckers buoy 4 during the daytime. Some sea bass and porgies at the Kismet Reef on worm and clam. Fluking has been decent anywhere west of the bridge, with sand eels and squid working best. Still some spotty mackerel action in 60 to 75 feet of water south of the inlet as of Sunday. A lot of 2 to 4 lb. blues in the bay on nearly any natural or artificial bait. Mike McMannes had 10 fluke from the bank under the Meadowbrook bridge on sand eels and squid. Flounders at the Sore Thumb on worms and mussels.

CAPTREE

Charter boat **Lady Ann** called to say that flounders remain fair and fluking is improving on a daily basis. Sunday's charter from the D&J Paprocky Service Station, Middle Island boated nearly 100 fluke, plus some flounder. The fluking is best in Snake Hill Channel and the west channel and at the Moses Bridge on sand

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eels and squid.

Capt. Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reports flounder fishing remains good; and to top off the day, some fluke are being caught by the Bridge and the State Channel with sand eels or killies.

On Sunday, Manny Bouzakis from Uniondale won the pool with a 4 lb. 3 oz. flounder.

Weakfishing continues to be spotty. A few are caught each night, along with some small blues. The size of the weaks are big.

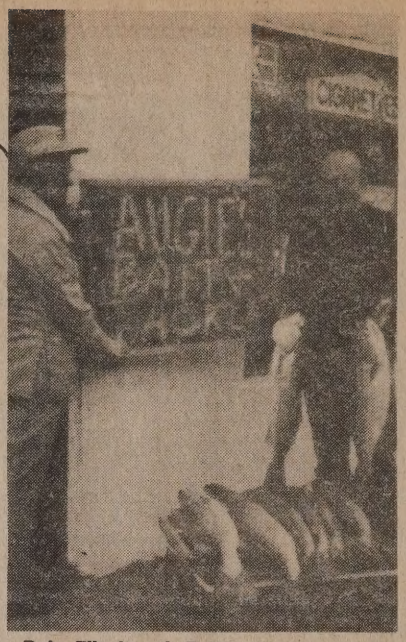
The **Speedy VI** reported that the weakfishing improved a great deal over the weekend. The mackerel fishing is still excellent. As an additional added attraction, whiting are being caught along with the mackerel. Fishing is being done 12 to 15 miles southeast of Fire Island Inlet.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station reports Saturday saw excellent fishing by their rental skiffs. Most boats fished flounder with worms, and also weakfish and small blues were caught, mostly on the flounder rigs. Joe Pepe of Hicksville took a 7¾ lb weak in this fashion. Mark Leng of New York City boated several weaks and blues. Grass Island and State Channel are the most likely spots, with best catches being made on salty dogs tipped with squid and also with sand eels on the hook. The east/west channel has been producing good flounder catches.

Hi Hook Fishing Station reports catches of weakfish on salty dogs at the Moses Bridge and bluefish off the Coast Guard Station on the inside, as evidenced by catches taken by Ted Cassell and Lee Zemmi and father.

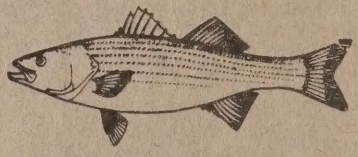
Dolores at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** tells us that quite a few blues are being caught all throughout the bay on salty dogs and other lures and bait. The little choppers are demolishing everything. The biggest weakfish weighed in during this past week was a 12 pounder and fair catches are being made at Heckscher and at Ocean Beach on salty dogs, squid and on Rebels. Fluke were caught on Friday by Al Giglio, brother Jim, Ed Starks and Dom Perra. They took 26 keeper fluke on sand eels up to 3½ lbs., along with three small marauding bluefish at the Moses Bridge. Flounder are still active in the Sore Thumb area, with worm and clam working best. Some big sea bass in the 3 and 4 lbs. category are being brought in from the Bay at Ocean Beach, taken on Salty Dogs.



Bob Ellesin of Babylon with eight weakfish up to 7-lbs. 9-oz. he caught on Salty Dogs and Rebel Plugs in the fog last week. Photo courtesy of Augies Bait & Tackle.

Charter Boat **Sea Ranger** had a charter of doctors out on Sunday and they did a pretty good job on fluke, five dozen boated with only 8 throwbacks. Also caught were 6 harbor blues which were taken on sundial belly. The fluke fell to sand eels/killie combos. Capt. John says there are millions of sand eels in Great South Bay. They fished the east and west sides of the Robert Moses Bridges. The blues were caught at buoy 17.

Capt. John Bilitsky of the charter boat **Sea Ranger** had the Copiague High School faculty Outdoor Club out for a catch of 2 tubs of mackerel and a dozen and a half fluke for a "little on the outside-little on the inside."



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LINDENHURST

John at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** tells of lots of fluke being caught in Fire Island Inlet, the Sore Thumb area and off the Coast Guard Station on squid, sand eels or killies. Weaks at Heckscher and Ocean Beach on Salty hounds tipped with squid and also without. Loads of 3 to 5 lb. blues all over the place. The Sore Thumb is still producing good flounder catches on worms and clam. Mackerel scattered and on their way out. Benny DeMartino during the week fished Ocean Beach for 14 weakfish, taken on a Salty hound.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports lots of small bluefish all over Zach's Bay, weaks at the bridges and in the Amityville and Lindenhurst Bays, and at the inlet, moving all over. These fish are 1½ to 3 pounders. Weaks at Ocean Beach and West Island on Salty Dogs, Viking shrimpies and white bucktails. Four weakfish were brought in by a customer on Monday morning which were jigged out of the hole, using the small Hopkins. Some fluke at the inlet on live killies and squid and also on sand eels. Flounder are still a good number at the Sore Thumb and at Nassau Shores. Jonas says he has live killies for all you fluke hounds.

Bait & Tackle Unlimited tells us flounder are still being caught with dyed clam doing a good job and an increasing number of blowfish being caught at the State Channel, the Copiague Hole and in many other local hotspots. The fish are moving around. Some blacks on the Kismet reef on fiddlers and worms. Fluke in the Inlet on everything but killies. Weaks in the State Channel off Lindenhurst and Babylon, off Ocean Beach and west Fire Island on Salty Dogs tipped with squid. Larry has weighed in many 6 to 9 lb. weaks. Blues in the inlet and in the State Channel from 2 to 3 lbs., tearing up Salty Dogs.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us that Pete Gattis and pals on his boat Tiderunner, had 8 weakfish from 8 lbs. 5 oz. to 9 lbs. even, along with 13 blues from 2 to 5 lbs., all on eight pound test line. Very good weakfishing at Heckscher's buoy 3 from 7 lbs. up to 10 lbs. 4 oz., on sand worms and jelly worms. Carl Humphries of Merrick and friends bailed closed to 100 blackfish all on green crab at the Meadow Brook bridge, a total for two Saturdays in a row. These sluggers ran from 2 to 10½ lbs.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us that the hottest weakfish lures that the pros are snapping up and has been in short supply is the 4½ mackerel painted sinking Rebel. Lon has sold out twice on this hot plug, but

has now received several dozen more from the tackle jobber. These are a sell-out Island wide; so if you want to grab some weakfish, pay a fast visit over to Wanser's. A 6 lb. 3 oz. fluke was taken on a Salty Dog at Jones Beach CG station by Lou Dietrich of Massapequa this past week. Bob and Ed Marsel on their boat Molly Brown, decked 14 weakfish off Ocean Beach going up to 9¼ lbs. on sand worms on Saturday, along with 5 porgies each in the 1½ lb. range, plus a bonus of a 3½ lb. seabass. This was all on squid. Frank Susska fished the Jones Beach piers on Sat., taking 30 bluefish in the 2 to 4 lb. range in the late afternoon, casting Ava A 27 jigs at them. Weakfish are being taken on RedFins and one was brought in to Lonnie's and hit the scale at 9 lb. 4 oz. Good flounder catches are being made on sand worms at buoy Z14 at Four Corners and just west of the drawbridge at Squaw Island. Bluefish have been running wild throughout the inlet and all over hitting anything shiny. Fish up to 3¼ lbs. Blackfish at the bridges on crabs or clam. The Bays are really alive.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports flounders have been the best bet this past week and weekend with Broad and Swift Creeks producing nicely on worm and mussel baits. Dick Skilman had 6 keeper fluke, plus some flounder all on flounder rigs on Saturday. An 11 lb. weakfish was taken by Doc Manfredi on sand worms in the Ocean Beach Channel to Heckscher on Sunday. Good blackfishing at the last Meadow Brook bridge on clam and crabs, with a 6 lbr. being brought in on Friday.

The infamous G. Korn had a brief encounter of the toothy kind with a 2½ lb. bluefish this past week. In attempting to remove a 4/0 hook from its jaw, Korn decided he would squeeze the bluefish's eyes to make him hold still, and as a result, the fish took a chunk out of his palm.

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supply** tells of good weakfish catches in Jones Inlet, Zachs Bay and in the State Channel with amixture of bluefish thrown in. Roy says that an outstanding new bait has been black or purple jelly worms. Flounder action has been spotty through Sunday, with best catches probably being Swift Creek and the CG station. Some fluke have been taken in the Inlet on squid and sand eels and also in the short beach area.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells us that on Saturday, Joe McKeefree had roughly 300 lbs. of mackerel fishing two miles south of the Inlet. Tony Petrone took 30 bluefish and a few weaks in the area of the JI buoy Saturday, trolling umbrellas. Some flounder and fluke coming in also from the local creeks and channels on flounder rigs tipped with worm.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE ★BEST BET★ WHITING

FREEPORT

Capt. Tony on the **Miss Freeport** tells us that his fares enjoyed fine flounder fishing Thursday through Saturday, working Reynold's Channel and his pet Freeport creeks. Mussel and worm baits and mussel chum were the ticket. Tony is now switching over to fluke and in a short time will be featuring two half-day trips daily. Watch his ad for details.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports good sized flounder, but no astounding quantity for the Association boats that fished flounder this past week. These flounder have been coming up cold and muddy. Best action has been at Pole 19, Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead. This has been on worms and on mussels, with a stirred up bottom. A few fluke have been pulled from the inlet as well on flounder rigs. the **Capt. Joe** fished mackerel Sunday and loaded up working southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Looks like the end of the mackerel. Small blues all over hitting everything. The open boat **Capt. Hall** is now switching to fluke after a good mackerel season.

A good catch of weakfish was taken by the **Atlantic** fishing deep in the New York Bight area. The tilefish trip on the **Nite Owl II** scheduled for May 28 booked so quickly that Capt. Jimmy Lanzaretta has scheduled another tilefish trip for the next day also, May 29, so if you don't want to be shut out, reserve immediately!

Roy at **Mako Marina** tells us that Frank Esposito and pal of Baldwin had weaks at the Meadow Brook bridge, two in number, both weighing 8 lbs., eight blues, 50 good flounder and two keeper fluke. This was an all-day at the last Meadow Brook bridge on the south side. Frank says while he was doing this act, he watched kids on the bank casting Salty Dogs and taking over a dozen weakfish. This was on Sunday and everything was on pink Salty Dogs. Watch for Mako Marina's annual Long Island Open Shark Tournament, with $5,000 cash prizes scheduled for July 8 and 9.

Charter boat **Nite Owl** did a job on the tile on Saturday at Hudson Canyon for Ray Achille and party which included the famous Joe DelPonte. They bagged 76 tile for 6 men, fish up to 33 lbs., in 425 ft. of water.

Charter boat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us he fished 9 miles east of Fire Island Inlet on Saturday for a good steady pick all day on the mackerel, which were scattered. Capt. Dennis says he still has some June shark dates open and to keep in mind that

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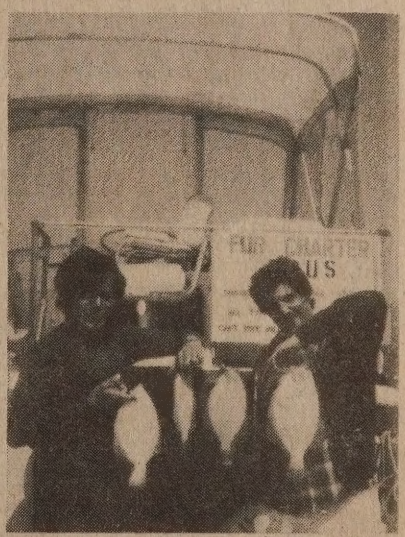

Ray Kahoud and Scott Lugavere caught these 47 flounder, ranging up to 2¾ lbs., aboard the *Apus* out of Freeport.

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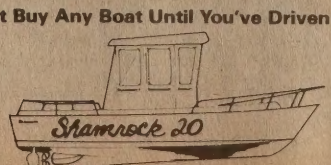

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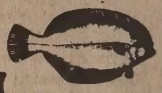

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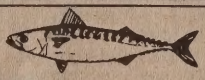

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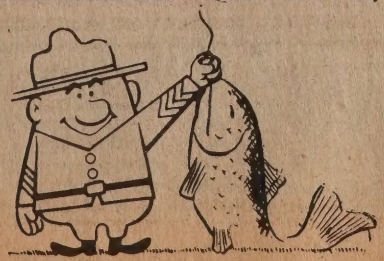

June and July are your best sharking months.

The **Aloma II** reported good mackerel catches Friday through Sunday, plus catches of whiting when the rigs hit bottom. The boat is switching over to fluke by the time you read this, and will be sailing daily at 7:15 AM.

The **Captain Hall** reports that mackerel has been very good over the weekend fishing locally, but that he is now going to greener pastures and will start fluking this week.

The **Starstream II** reports super mackerel fishing right through Sunday, but since the macks are on their way out, he is switching over to sea bass and giant ling. Richie says that while Saturday was good on the macks, Sunday was super-duper. The draggers are getting substantial sea bass and ling catches, and this is what he now can put his customers into.

The Capt. Lou II tells us that Friday and Saturday saw good flounder catches. High hook Saturday was 30 flounder, average 10 to 15 per person. Dave Dreyer of New Hyde Park was high hook. Reynold's Channel and the Coast Guard Station worked well.

The **Blue Fin II** called to report great mackerel fishing near the NB buoy off Fire Island, to the tune of 3 and 4 fish at a swing for the Semi-Conductor Products group of Hicksville Charter. Sunday's charter was flounder in Reynold's Channel and Swift Creek. The pool was taken by Joe Wolff of the Wonderbar Fishing Club, with a 2 lb. flounder. High hook was Fuzzy Reinheimer with 14 flounder. Ten-year-old Chuck Adams had 6 flounder including a 2 lb. 4 oz. giant.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports blackfish at the last Meadow Brook bridge with fiddler crabs best, followed by clam. Blues are being taken in the 5 to 6 lb. category two miles off at the JI Buoy on the troll. These fish are scattered and it's an umbrella job. Flounders are still a good thing, averaging 18 to the skiff, with 50 flatties for one skiff this past week. Merrick Bay and High Flats Drain have been productive, as was Fundy which produced 49 flounder for one of Anthony's skiffs on Saturday.

Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports weaks at Jones Inlet and the Coast Guard Station on white Indian Scent 6-inch recoil worms, plus other all white lures, working the inlet. Harbor blues at the inlet on Hopkins and fluke at the Coast Guard station and Reynold's Channel on sand eels. Blacks at the bridges on clam or fiddlers. Flounders spotty, but will respond to worm baits and plenty of chum.

Part of Saturday's catch of 76 tilefish taken by 6 man charter on Capt. Joe Long's charterboat *Nite Owl*, for party headed by Ray Achille.

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Capt. Mike Miller of the **Apus** called to say that on Saturday on a half-day charter, Matt and Angela Moersdorf caught 19 blues from 3 to 7 lbs., trolling off Jones Inlet. Sunday's trip was a dog on flounder, but the day was bailed out with blues and blacks. The anglers were Dr. Pearson, Bill and Mario Capuano, James Thomson, Sal Loiacano and William Slovik.

Captain Joe on the **Ivory Queen** reports he had Carmine Puma and party aboard Saturday for weakfish at Ocean Beach. They caught six weakfish, the largest of which ran about 10 lbs. They had 10 fish altogether and dropped four.

Capt. Joe was out on his private boat on Sunday and caught 20 nice size fluke up to 22 in; weight ran about 3½ lbs.

POINT LOOKOUT

The **Marie III** reported that Saturday and Sunday they had fantastic wreck fishing. Ling and sea bass going 1 to 2 lbs. The fishing was greater than it has been in a long time. All fish were caught using clam for bait.

Ed's Fishing Station reported that on Friday, Gary Sprance and Gary Jonnazzo from Glendale, had 50 blackfish up to 5½ lbs., fishing at Meadowbrook Bridge. On Saturday, over 50 flounders and a good number of eels were taken by Joe Decker and Tony Sandels, both of Ridgewood.

On Sunday, Tom Mazur and Mike Lattorraca from Wallington, New Jersey had 19 nice size fluke.

Fishing is really good. They're still picking up flounders and a lot of blacks at the Bridge, and fluke are being caught in Reynold's Channel and in the flats. On both days there were a lot of small bluefish in the Inlet and before the Inlet. Each boat loaded up with an average of 4 fish each.

ISLAND PARK

Charter boat **Ro Ma Fran II** fished buoy 4 on Saturday and took a good haul of sea bass and ling on squid.

The **Gennie Mae** on Saturday had fantastic whiting catch along with some fluke, all on squid fished on the bottom east of the Atlantic Beach Bridge in Reynold's Channel.

The **Commodore** reports good flounder fishing Friday through Sunday mainly at Reynold's Channel buoy 9 with worms on the hook followed by mussel as next best bait. A few fluke were taken as well on the flounder rigs. On Sunday afternoon, the boat zipped offshore for a good catch of red hake, which they took on sand eels. A private boat had 13 keeper fluke at buoy 17 on the weekend. Blackfish on fiddlers at the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

Joe and Steve on the Debra fished Thursday at the JI Buoy and took a load of mackerel. On Friday night they left for the Canyon and fishing 104 miles off the beach in 425 ft. of water, had 65 tile to 30 lbs. Three other members of Tournament Anglers were also aboard.

Beckmann's Bait and Tackle reports Ben Hickey and his two daughters had 159 flounder on Thursday and 156 flounder on Friday. These were all fish between 1 and 1½ lbs. and were taken in the State Channel west of Captree Bridge towards the Babylon Cut on bloodworms and no chum. This was probably the outstanding flounder report of the week. Fluke was generally good off the Coast Guard Station in Jones Inlet, fish between 18 and 20 inches on spearing and sand eels. Blackfish at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. Blues from 2 to 4 lbs., all over the place hitting on you-name-it. Point Lookout and the Breezy Point jetty have been producing striped bass on bait and on bucktails tipped with squid. Danny and George Hagerty of Merrick had 3 keeper bass under a midday sun on Friday, fishing worms in the surf at Cedar Beach overlook.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Dorothy B which has been having good catches of mackerel and whiting, will now be switching over to whiting, ling and sea bass and will be sailing 5 PM trips in addition Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Action is just an half an hour from the dock.

Big Mohawk II reports whiting with their tails bitten off are being taken as perfect evidence of a lot of voracious bluefish in the area. However, a strong moon tide put action down over the weekend and catches were nothing to rave about. However, by this weekend, fishing should be back to normal, with good catches expected. Two blues were taken Saturday and one on Sunday, probably scouts. Tony asked us to tell you that he still has some weekday dates open and Friday and Saturday fall nights open.

Elsie K III tells us that since the

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mackerel have moved out of sight, he is now switching over to sea bass, whiting and blackfish.

The Flamingo III is giving up the chase on mackerel and will be banging away at the whiting and sea bass.

The **Zephyr** reports Saturday saw good sea bass action, a few to two pounds, plus some blackfish. Sunday was excellent blackfishing, fish running 2 to 7 lbs., 35-40 per person on fiddlers and green crabs on the Jersey rocks.

Sal of **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** called to tell us they're getting flounders and blackfish off Rockaway Jetty. Ling and whiting are being taken off Ambrose. There are blues and weakfish off Atlantic Beach, and also loads of mackerel in Manasquan outside of Long Beach, New Jersey.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** says it's a real grab bag. Flounders are still there at piers 17 and 18 with small stripers, tommycod, eels, blacks and herring for sinker bouncers. Generally worms are the bait for all of the above. Great Kills Park is having a showing of fluke on squid and on artificial shrimp. There's been a steady pick of small bass off the Great Kills Beach on the flood on worms. Blacks at the rock jetties on fiddlers. A couple of blues on cut bait and weaks from the beach on worms, also off the Great Kills beach. Boaters are doing an excellent job on blacks at the Lighthouses and bug lights on fiddlers. Princess Bay and Old Orchard through West Bank lighthouse has been producing 3 to 5 lb. blues, some to 8 lbs. Two stripers of 16 and 20 lbs., have been taken on Spoons in the Bight area. Schoolie bass from short fish to 3 lbrs., are being taken on drifted worms from the 21 can to the VZ Bridge. 25 ling in the 5 lb. range were taken on worms by a surf caster off Cliff Street. Cross Bay Rod and Gun reports blacks on fiddlers and flounders on worms off the north channel bridge. Blackfish also at the Marine Parkway Bridge, some just under 4 lbs.

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SOUTHOLD

Pete at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports very, very good weakfishing at Jessup's and at the Windmill on squid ans salty dogs and on hi-low rigs. Beautiful catches, a lot of 8 and 9 lb. fish. Porgies starting at Middle Ground between buoys 17 and 18 and by the weekend, porgies should be excellent on clam and worm.

GREENPORT

The Brand X reports good Saturday evening weakfish action. While no bonanza over the weekend, action was still healthy, with fish going over 10 lbs., taken on every trip. For one hour Saturday night in Peconic Bay, 3 mates with nets couldn't keep up with the weakfish. The boat will also be after porgies and there are evening trips coming up, so check out details in the boat's ad.

The Wilheric reports weakfish good over the weekend, fish up to 12 lbs. Porgies are showing good, up to 3 lbs. The North Brookhaven Fishing Club had over 40 weaks and over 35 porgies on their Sun. night charter.

A. P. White Bait and Tackle reports very good weakfishing in the Bay, and at the Lawn at Shelter Island and off Jessup's. Art White has weighed in a lot of 13 and 14 lb. fish, taken on squid, worms, salty dogs and twisters. Fifty weaks were taken for one charterboat. A lot of porgies and many 3 lbrs. amongst them on skimmers, worms, and squid. Strong flounder action at Bostwick and near Gardiner's Island on mussel, clams and worms. Blacks in Long Island Sound, big ones for surfcasters off Greenport, Orient and East Marion on worms. Art will have fiddlers by the weekend.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station called to say they're getting 20 to 30 nice weakfish per boat, fish weighing anywhere from 5 to 13 lbs. The fish are being taken south of Nassaut Point, near Sand Slide all the way back to buoy 30. They're being taken on bucktail, Salty Dogs and Bingle lures with a piece of squid attached; all in the South Race. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. also being taken on worms and skimmers. Flounders taken on sand worms and skimmer clam, from Rose's Grove all the way to the neck at Jessup's.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Shop reported the weakfishing picked up over the weekend. The better fishermen had up to 20 fish per boat. Standbys like the South Race and

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Carl Hanson from Mattituck caught 7 weakfish weighing from 6-lbs. to 12¼ lbs. fishing in the South Race between buoys 27 and 29 using Salty Dogs tipped with a strip of squid. ***Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's.***

Rose's Grove were some of the locations. No bass reports yet. There's still flounders for the sinker bouncers and blackfish in all the rocky areas on the Sound side. Porgies are starting to show. They are going 2½ to 3½ lbs. Rumors of small blues taken up around Jessup's came into the shop, but nobody produced any fish.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports that on Friday Steve Vida of Syosset and Russ Wasp of Bronxville and Bob Bongiovanni of the Bronx had weaks at Buoy 17, smallest weighing in at 6½ lbs., largest at 9 lbs. Russ caught the 9 pounder. On Sunday, Pete Knowles of Bellerose with wife Alice and brother, Jimmy got 10 large weaks. Peter was high hook and also had the largest fish, a 9½ pounder. Noyac Marina's largest weakfish to date, caught on Saturday, weighed in at 12 lbs., 14 oz. and was caught by Bob Williams of Jamaica. The first weak of the season was taken on Monday, May 15 by Peter Knowles.

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark Fleet has been catching weaks and porgies for most of the week, with 60 big porgies coming over the rail at Middle Grounds and Jessup's on Saturday. Weaks have been picky, but improving everyday, best area being Cow Neck on pink Salty Dogs and squid. There are still flounders to be caught and a good combination is a flounder rig on the bottom and a high hook on a long leader for weaks. One female passenger on the weekend had 9 weakfish.

Specht's Bait and Tackle in Southampton reports that most boats fishing weakfish in the Peconics are getting at least a few at buoy 25, Cow Neck and Robin's Island on squid and salty dogs tipped with squid, hi-low rigs and at Towd Point.

EAST HAMPTON

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports Sunday they did very well south of Gardiner's Island for flounder, using sand worms, clam and heavy mussel chum. David Blank and Steven Rizza from Bayside caught 24 fish up to 3½ lbs., fishing both sides of the flood. Weather permitting, the boats are doing well.

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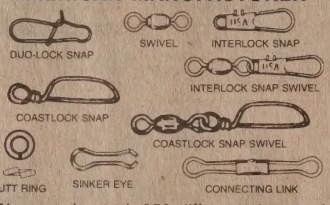

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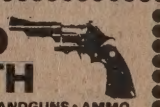

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Call 'em weakfish, sea trout, or whatever. They're not only fun to catch, but great eating. Stuffed and baked or put under a broiler, they have a distinctive flavor somewhere between freshwater trout and walleye—and that's delicious!

As a change, we like to put them on the barbecue. We find a little imaginative marinade can provide some new taste treats. It's been a trial-and-smack-the-lips sort of game, checking out the sort of condiments we think might do something for the fish without masking its natural goodness.

Make up a marinade of:
half cup of Soy sauce
1/2 tsp. Ginger
1/2 tsp. lemon-pepper

In a shallow pan or Pyrex dish, marinate the fillets from a 7 lb. weakfish for two hours.

Over a hot bed of coals in the barbecue, spread heavy-duty aluminum foil over the grille, with enough holes or slits in it to let lots of smoke through, yet prevent the fish from falling through. Spray with a non-stick aerosol.

Place the fillets on the foil, skin up. Let it brown a little on the surface, but don't overcook so that flakes of fish begin falling off the skin. If your fire is hot, it will take less than 10 minutes.

Turn the fish over (skin down) and pour the remaining marinade over it. Let it cook about 10 minutes more, watching to see that it doesn't overcook. A barbecue with a cover will hold the heat and smoke in where you won't need more than 5 minutes a side to cook.

If the idea of ginger and soy sauce doesn't turn your taste buds on, make up a different sort of marinade using spices or herbs that appeal to you. We're going to do one with curry some day!

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ MACKEREL

PORT JEFFERSON

The Betty W reports that mackerel fishing has been very steady. Some flounder are still to be had and blackfishing is picking up everyday. On Friday, Emil Augustine of Flushing took the pool with a 9½ lb. black.

Saturday's fishing was slow, but two blacks of 7½ lbs., shared the pool for Ottmar Rihm and Tom Heinlein. Sunday, the rambling anglers did well with blacks, and the pool fish was 11½ lbs.

Caraftis Fishing Station tells of lots of mackerel being caught, all you want between dawn and 10 AM every morning, like clockwork at buoy 11. Al and Lou Pagoni of Sayville and friend Frank from Brookly, took 40 large blacks to 10½ lbs. on fiddlers this past week. This was at the Port Jeff Inlet. Jim Jackson, Paul Tref, and Pete Tremino of Selden fished Saturday and Sunday for a total of 105 flounder and 18 blacks just outside the Port Jeff Inlet on worms, mussel and clams.

KINGS PARK

Capt. Howie Berlin of the **Claire Fleet** reports that his boats sailing to the Lloyd's Point-Eaton's Neck area have been taking any where from 10-35 flounder per man and roughly 50 blackfish for the boat during the week and roughly half those numbers for the weekend. The **Super Claire** and the **Claire** bailed mackerel all weekend in the Long Island Sound off Stamford Saturday, and off Rye on Sunday, all the biggest kind of mackerel. These mackerel boats will also be running 4:30 p.m. trips, Friday through Sunday afternoons in Long Island Sound.

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports everyone had a really beautiful weekend. Mackerel were all over the place, with blackfish and flounders still making a fair showing. Some striped bass are being plugged along the beaches by local sharpshooters. On Saturday, Ralph Liguori and Jimmy Megetrick jigged 150 mackerel off Callahan's. On Friday, James Parker and Jack O'Loughlin took 180 mackerel off Crane's Neck, trolling tubes.

On Sunday, Jeff Gatti and Chris Cirricione caught 25 flounders off Callahan's, using sand worms and skimmer clams.

Also on Sunday, George Finneran and sons had a mixed bag of 3 blackfish, 36 mackerel and 12 flounders, caught on sand worms and mussels, fishing off the Mansion.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reported 3 fluke were taken off Sand City last Friday, along with one weakfish in the hot water at Lilco. Only small flounders are left in the harbor. The bigger fish are outside off Callahan's. Blackfish are in all rocky areas

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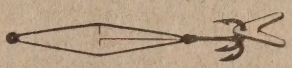

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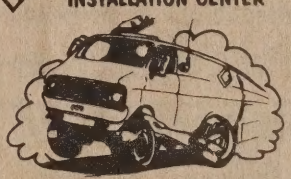

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COMPLETE TUNING of your VHF radio may solve poor performance problems. If yours hasn't been checked in a couple of years, have it bench-checked (free) at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. 516-581-0194.

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FISH FINDER—1977 APELCO chart recorder with depth flasher (Model MR 201-C). Ideal for bay or ocean use; best friend for the serious fisherman. $325. value, like new; asking $175. Call: 516-883-7943.

Wesmar SS-80 Scanning Sonar. Locates underwater objects. Used one season. $550. Phone evenings: 516-427-2897.

FISHING TACKLE

BOTTOM RIGS—COMPLETE WITH sinker loop, main line tie on swivel. Fluke-$1.75; flounder-$1.75; blackfish-$1.50; porgy-$1.50; fluke and weakfish-$2.25. Check or Money Order to: S.F. AGLIANO, 573 E. 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11210.

FLUKE—FLOUNDER—BLACKFISH RIGS. Custom rods, Components. Huge selection of lures & reels popular in our area at lowest possible prices. Send $1 (Refunded with first order) to ANGLER'S EDGE, 109 Summit Street, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangling of hook at a minimum. Hand made. Finest materials. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or money order to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS. Deadly, double hook design, long the secret weapon of the "Pros." You'll hook more and lose fewer fish, since fluke can't avoid adjustable tail hook. Each rig hand-tied, using finest materials. 3 rigs for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566. Pays for itself in fluke dinners.

REAL ESTATE

WATERFRONT! LINDENHURST VILLAGE— 50x80 Bulkheaded on deep canal suitable for large boats. Maintenance free aluminum sided Cape Cod in immaculate condition. 3 bedrooms (Master 12x25). Large EIK with sliding glass doors overlooking canal. 2 baths, w/w carpeting, s/s, low taxes. Principals only. $44,500. 516-226-9086.

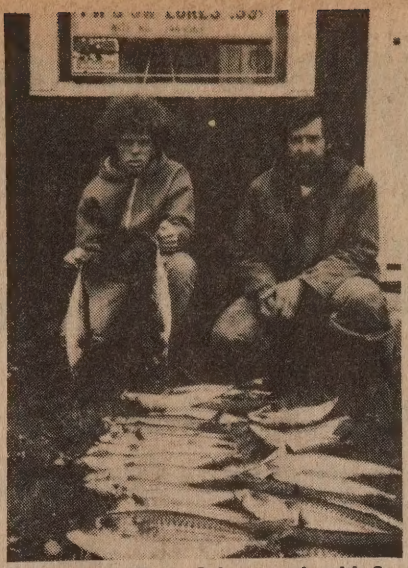
DEER RUN ESTATES SUBDIVISION in southern CATSKILL MOUNTAINS two hours from L.I. Few (3-4-5) wooded acre parcels available. Excellent hunting and fishing area. Newly created community, roads, electric. Part of large private estate. SPECIAL PRICE of $3500 per acre for SPORTSMEN & NATURE LOVERS ONLY. Small down payment, 15 year terms. Additional information and brochure, call DEER RUN ESTATES, 516-666-6171.

BOAT RESIN & HARDENER
COMPLETE Fiberglass Tape & Cloth $8.95 A GALLON Fiberglass Mat & Roven Woving
Mon.-Th. 9-9 Fri. & Sat. 9-5 Sunday 9-1
FREE—*Sample of Bilge Cleaner with every Resin Purchase.*
—Many other Marine Products—
2739 LONG BEACH RD. OCEANSIDE - (516) 766-6050
WE SHIP U.P.S. COLLECT

Jim Duffy of the Baits Fishing Club of Richmond Hill journeyed up to Quincy on Saturday. 27 men in about half that number of skiffs took healthy catches of flounder, average fish 2¼ lbs. High hook was Bob Bates with 121 flounder on sand worms and rice and corn chum.

Consistently Advertised Consistently Bought

Say you saw it in the FISHERMAN



Fred and Winnie Schoenwerk with 2-lb. mackerel they caught on mackerel trees at buoy 11 in only 20 minutes of fishing during the last of the outgoing tide. ***Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.***

including 200 yards off the Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station. Mackerel are still around in good numbers. Head about one mile offshore and start looking. Bass in the hot water taking white lures. Action goes up and down, but there is usually a fish or two taken each day.

Bowman's Sporting Goods called to tell us the first weakfish of the season was taken locally, a 9 lb. 10 oz. tiderunner, by John Galantini inside Northport Bay on a flounder strip bait.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle reported very good mackerel fishing over the weekend. Anywhere from offshore of Diamond Point to north of the loading platform. Blackfish are around in good numbers. Gene Sandler caught 12 from 3 to 8½ lbs. Last Saturday morning, 6 weakfish were taken at Lilco on Tri-Fin Whiptails. Some bass action on worms trolled after dark between Target Rock and Marshall Field. Also some fish on Rebels and Whiptails at the Causeway in Cold Spring Harbor. Flounders are small and out of the limelight.

Jack's Bait & Tackle reported that City Island did well with the macks up around Stamford. Over the weekend, some macs moved down off New Rochelle. All the rental boats came back with blackfish and some flounders. There is a school of bass in Turtle Cove that are in either the short or barely-keeper range. Jack noted there's a lot of bunker in the water.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle tells of good flounder fishing in the Sound between Eaton's Neck and Ashrocken on mussels, sand worms and better results if you use chum. A few blackfish up to 6½ lbs., on fiddlers, clam or worm at Morris Rock, Eaton's Neck and Callahan's. Some bass from the beach and for worm trollers off Cold Spring causeway and Marshall Field's. Weakfish off the Beach at Mackamah on worms for Steve Whalen of Huntington Station. Very good mackerel catches over the weekend in the middle of the Sound, one to two miles east of 11B.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that his mackerel run has been discontinued for the rest of the season.

On Saturday, they were basically doing well with blackfish and big flounders. Also on Saturday, Skip Anderson of Boy Scout Troop 113 won the pool with a large blackfish.

On Sunday, Bob Juliano of the Fin and Fur Club of East Islip won the pool with a 6 lb. blackfish. Bob DiTomas was high hook, with 16 fish, consisting of blacks, flounders and eels.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★ MACKEREL

CITY ISLAND

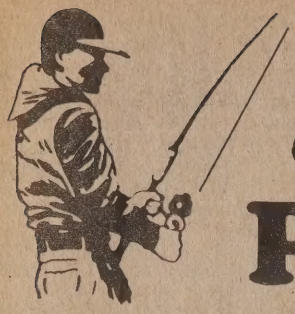
The **Ebb Tide** reports good mackerel over the weekend, fish really flying on Sunday, where 57 was high hook. The boat is fishing from Execution Light up east on the Sound. The boat will be also running 4:30 p.m. afternoon trips on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

having problems?....for TOP MARINE LUMBER:

WOOD-PLY LUMBER CORP.

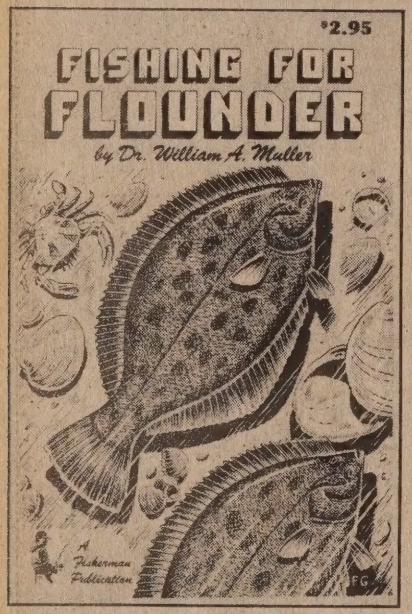
BOAT LUMBER:
- OAK • TEAK
- MAHOGANY • FIR
- MARINE PLYWOOD (4'x8' to 4'x20')
- FIBERGLASS CLOTH & RESIN
- MARINE GLUES, SEALANTS & FASTENINGS

100 BENNINGTON AVE.
FREEPORT, N.Y. (Off Sunrise Hwy.)
(516) FR-8-2612



FISHERMAN PUBLICATIONS

At last! Books on local fish written by local fishermen for local fishermen! Published by The Fisherman for our readers.



FISHING FOR FLOUNDER

by Dr. William A. Muller

The first book EVER to be published exxclusively on techniques for catching winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics like *Baits, Rigging Up, Scientific Information, Chumming Techniques, How-To Locate Flounder, Where-To Go, Fishing Techniques*—also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite. Fully illustrated by Fred Guardineer, photos. 96 Pages.

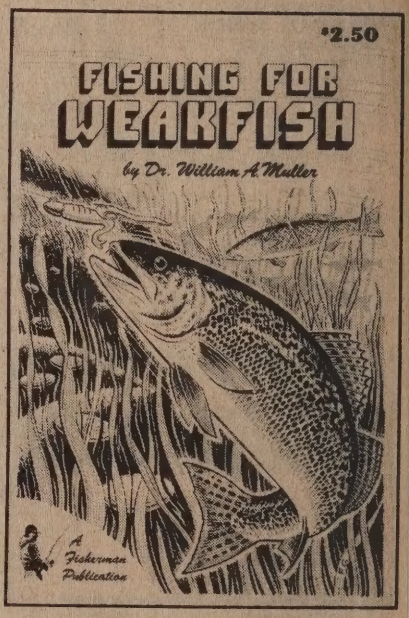
$3.45 *Includes postage, Handling & Sales Tax*

FISHING FOR FLUKE

by Scott Simons

The first book EVER to be published exclusively on how to catch fluke! Contains complete chapters on *Tackle, Equipment, Rigging Up, Natural Baits, Bottom Formations, Drifting, Trolling, Chumming* and *Articial Lures.* Illustrated with over 85 photographs and diagrams by Fred Guardineer. 112 Pages.

$3.45 *Includes Postage, Handling & Sales Tax*



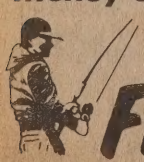
FISHING FOR WEAKFISH

by Dr. William A. Muller

The first all-new book to be published on the art of catching weakfish in more than 25 years! Entire chapters devoted to covering topics such as *Tackle, Artificial Lures, Natural Baits, Rigging Up, Cooking & Cleaning,* and extensive chapter on *Where-To-Go.*

$2.95 *Includes Postage, Handling & Sales Tax*

Send Check or Money Order to:



***The* FISHERMAN**

Post Office Box 1994
Sag Harbor, New York 11963

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	10:57	11:19	11:36	11:59	11:43	11:59	—	12:26	1:38	2:18	1:41	2:18	10:51	11:12	5/25
FRI	11:56	—	—	12:34	—	12:44	12:41	1:26	2:32	3:17	2:38	3:16	11:46	—	5/26
SAT	12:17	12:54	12:55	1:38	12:59	1:42	1:40	2:29	3:36	4:29	3:35	4:17	12:10	12:44	5/27
SUN	1:15	1:54	1:57	2:44	1:57	2:38	2:46	3:32	4:50	5:51	4:39	5:18	1:08	1:45	5/28
MON	2:13	2:54	3:02	3:48	2:54	3:36	3:54	4:37	6:18	7:02	5:44	6:20	2:09	2:46	5/29
TUE	3:13	3:53	4:06	4:52	3:54	4:33	5:01	5:40	7:31	8:04	6:49	7:23	3:12	3:45	5/30
WED	4:16	4:53	5:10	5:48	4:55	5:31	6:05	6:37	8:36	9:02	7:52	8:19	4:09	4:41	5/31
THUR.	5:15	5:46	6:09	6:40	5:54	6:26	7:04	7:27	9:32	9:53	8:51	9:13	5:05	5:33	6/1

HOW TO USE THE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/1	5:56	7:58
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/7	5/15	5/22	5/29

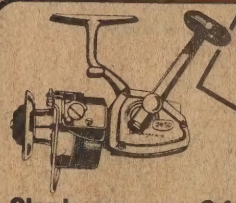
The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	8:00	**2:15**	8:25	**2:50**
Fri.	9:05	**3:20**	9:30	**3:55**
Sat.	10:10	**4:25**	10:35	**4:55**
Sun.	11:10	**5:20**	11:30	**5:45**
Mon.	11:55	**6:10**	—	**6:30**
Tues.	12:20	**6:50**	12:45	**7:15**
Wed.	1:05	**7:25**	1:30	**8:00**
Thurs.	1:35	**8:20**	2:15	**8:45**

SUPER FISHING LINE-UP!

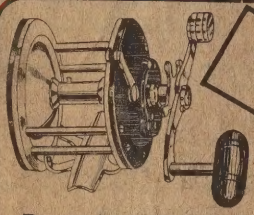


SAVE $4!

Shakespeare 2410 Spinning Reel

Skirted spool, ball bearing system. Right or left hand retrieve. 4.2 to 1 gear ratio. 360 yd. 10 lb. line capacity.

23.90 reg. 27.99



SAVE $3!

Penn Longbeach 65 Conventional Boat Reel

Chrome plated brass spool, star drag. 2½ to 1 gear ratio. 300 yd. 30 lb. test Dacron® capacity.

13.90 reg. 16.99

Shakespeare SP1100WF "Ugly Stik"® Rod

5'10" spinning rod combines graphite and fiberglass.

24.90 reg. 29.99

Daiwa 1571L Medium Action Boat Rod

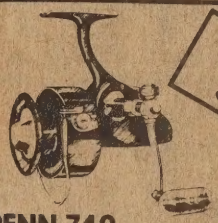
6', one-piece rod with stainless guides, EVA handle and grip.

10.90 reg. 13.99

Garcia H876 Medium Action Boat Spin Rod

6'8", two-piece rod with stainless guides, cork handle and grip.

14.90 reg. 18.99

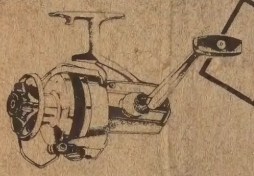


SAVE $3.50!

PENN 710 Spinning Reel

Ball bearing system, Teflon® drag, 3.6 to 1 gear ratio. 200 yd. 12 lb. test line capacity.

19.90 reg. 23.49



SAVE $4!

Daiwa 7000C Skirted Spool Spinning Reel

Three ball bearings, right or left hand retrieve. 4.4 to 1 gear ratio. 350 yd. 15 lb. test line capacity.

27.90 reg. 31.99

Olympic Surf Spin Rod

Choose 9' or 10' rods. Fuji guides, glass to glass ferrules, EVA handle.

24.90 reg. 32.99

Capt. John Sekora Umbrella Rig

Complete with teasers and trolling tubes.

5.90 reg. 7.95

Replacement Tubes 6/0 hook with swivel. **1.59** reg. 1.95

Ande ½ lb. Spool Line

Buy now at this special low price! "Pink" premium Ande line in 10 lb. to 60 lb. test.

4.90 reg. 7.99

NEW

Tri® Fin Sand Eel Jig Swimmer

Swimming action heads, swiveled hooks, natural bait coloring.

		Sale
¾ oz.	reg. 89¢	69¢
3 oz.	reg. 1.49	1.19
4 oz.	reg. 1.59	1.29
6 oz.	reg. 1.89	1.59

Sale ends May 30th.

Herman's

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ROOSEVELT FIELD SHOPPING CENTER • QUEENS CENTER, 92nd St. BETWEEN 57th & 59th Ave. in REGO PARK
• OPEN DAILY TO 9:30 P.M. • OPEN SUNDAYS NOON TO 5 P.M. • AMERICAN EXPRESS & OTHER MAJOR CREDIT CARDS